

# CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE

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## PRESIDENT'S DESK

Child-life is influenced and developed by the four great agencies named briefly in the title. The National Congress of Mothers includes in its work the stimulation of all these agencies to more purposeful, effective, well-considered, and coöperative action, each in its separate field. The home is easily the most influential factor in the guidance and nurture of children, yet alone it cannot do its best work. An organization covering the welfare of the child cannot ignore the other agencies, nor can it limit itself to any single agency.

Six years before the child enters school his very existence, his whole life and formation of habits depend principally on the mother in the home.

To meet that requirement, for saving babies, for child nurture in infancy and early childhood the Mothers' Circle was made a fundamental department of the Congress of Mothers. "Better Mothers, Better Babies," is the slogan adopted by the Washington State Branch National Congress Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations.

The Mothers' Circle

More attention has been given to this phase of the work in Washington State than elsewhere. New Jersey has strongly emphasized the formation of

Mothers' Circles. New York State has never wavered from its adherence to this phase of organization work.

No State can afford to omit the foundation work in the home. The Mothers' Circle Department needs stimulation and organization in every State. Mrs. Z. C. Thornburg, Des Moines, Iowa, has consented to take the National chairmanship of Mothers' Circles. There are topics that only mothers can handle. Baby-saving, better obstetrics, child hygiene, child guidance for children under six—are questions that concern mothers so much that to delay reaching them until their children go to school is a fatal error. Reading courses for parents will prove invaluable for Mothers' Circles. In many homes the father too will be ready to profit by the Reading Courses.

The spiritual guidance of children is too often delegated by parents to the church or Sunday-School. It is important for every parent to know whether the teaching is such as reaches the inner life of the child, whether it tends to implant a love of God which eventuates in acts of kindness and service to others, whether the presentation of religion repels or attracts. Dr. Peabody, from thirty years' experience with college boys, claims that boys are religious, but the manner of presentation of religion by many churches drives them away. Because the church represents the world-wide body for leading people—children and adults—to the source of life and light, no organization formed for child welfare can overlook the necessity for Parents Associations in Churches. The Congress of Mothers has no wish to interfere with the tenets of any sect, but all agree that God's laws of life should be so taught to children, that they will influence their daily lives.

Parents Association in Churches

How to teach them is the question every mother wishes to have answered. The Parents' Association in your church can help by studying and by inspiring parents to more constructive faithful teaching of the principles of spiritual life to little children.

There should be active chairmen of Parents' Associations in churches in every State and every community. When children are wayward, surely the church has a share in the duty of going after the stray lambs.

The Parent-Teacher Association begins its work for the welfare of the child when the child enters school. It usually ceases its work when the child leaves school, either in grammar or high school. Too infrequently does it remain active through the high school. Its functions are defined as Study of Child Nurture and Child Welfare by Parents, Coöperation of Parents and Teachers, Study and Promotion of Child Welfare in Community. Its activities do not extend to the management of the school. It should not attempt to rule the Board of Education or run the school. Its scope of work is of inestimable value, but it loses its influence and decreases its usefulness when it takes up matters beyond those for which it is primarily responsible. All the questions relating to the growth and guidance of children of school age came within its province. All the questions that may benefit school administration concern the Parent-Teacher Associations.

Better salaries for teachers insure a higher type of men and women who enter that profession. Coöperation in making schools better is part of every parents' duty. Knowledge of the problems of school administration, school taxes, school buildings, mean wiser voting on school matters. Education of public opinion in Parent-Teacher Associations is one of their functions.

Unless there is a recognized part of the Congress of Mothers whose duty it is to give special study and attention to the broad questions of child welfare outside of home, church and school, only a portion of the way will be made smooth for the children. From the point of view of mothers, fathers and teachers, many are the gaps in our present codes of laws for child protection.

Laws designed to be beneficial fail of their purpose through bad administration, political interference, or mistaken policy in their enactment. As long as juvenile crime increases, probation and truant systems are not efficiently administered. As long as mothers are separated from their children this failure to have a mother's pension system that covers the need, the welfare of children is imperilled. As long as no thought is given to the children who leave school at fourteen their welfare is neglected.

The Parent-Teacher Association does not cover these and other phases of child protection. Carloads of orphan children are still shipped to western states for home placing. Who knows about this, or thinks of some better, more individual, way of treating them.

Can a Congress of Mothers be blind to the necessity of having Child-Welfare Circles in every community, made up of men and women who are ready to strike out in new paths, who are ready to throw into the discard the old ineffective measures of treatment, and build up a system that will really meet the needs in giving every child a chance before it is too late.

The National Congress of Mothers must build from the foundation, from birth. It cannot omit the Mothers' Circle. It cannot do without the Parent-Teacher Association. It cannot omit Parents' Circles in churches. Nor can it overlook that the years from fourteen to twenty are impressionable critical years in the lives of boys and girls.

Some organizations of the Congress beyond and following the Parent-Teacher Association must deal with these questions. Mothers and Fathers graduated from Mothers' Circles and Parent-Teacher Associations still have life work for child welfare. Until one studies the subject broadly one cannot know the vast work to be done to give to youth the guidance and protection that is its due.

All this and more come within the work of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations. The first three International Congresses on the Welfare of the Child were held by the National Congress of Mothers, thus extending interest to world welfare of children, to world organization of parents.

The mother is not only the heart of the home, she must be the heart of the world. With clear vision of what the world can be with true ideals implanted by the mothers in every home, with broadening vision of her relation to the making of the character of the man that is to be, who can question the need for organized motherhood not only in our country, but in every country of the globe. Who can doubt that fathers—all true men—will coöperate with the mothers of vision and purpose who are banded together with a common aim to bring to every child in every home the mothering which will give him a chance to live, a chance to grow up to noble manhood or womanhood.

The heart is a small part of the human body, but unless it functions life is extinct. Let mothers have the opportunity and privilege of performing their God-given work as they should, and the whole body politic will feel new life, new aspirations, new conceptions of the relative values of things.

The twenty-third Annual Conference on the Welfare of the Child, auspices of National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, will meet in Kansas City, Mo., May 6-10. The National Board had also planned to have a Peace Conference of Mothers in Washington when peace was declared. As the Children's Bureau is also planning for a conference at that time the National Board has requested that a joint meeting be held.

Simultaneously with this meeting the Congress of Mothers asks every local association to meet to celebrate peace; to thank God for our deliverance from the slavery that Germany would have imposed on the world, to honor the brave boys who gave their lives for the future welfare of the world; to consider seriously what mothers can do to prevent the recurrence of this world tragedy. An outline of the program can be secured if desired by writing to CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

"I am putting on a Membership Drive throughout all our state organizations. A reply postal card has been sent to every state president, asking for names and addresses of the state chairman on membership. Immediate answers have been received, and I have sent circulars and letters to these state chairmen to help them select a plan to put on the drive for members. In some states they do not seem to have a membership chairman. In others they are very eager to start their drive, and welcome all the help that I can give them. I am very enthusiastic over the results we are getting. It is very expensive work, but we are building up homes, and producing future citizens, of whom the United States may well be proud. It is the most worthy line of work to which any father, mother or teacher, can possibly give time, strength and money. I only wish I had more money to give, but in order to make money in any line of business we have to invest money.

I am giving all my strength and time, and know how to *get* and *keep* members, but I must have the tools with which to work."

WHEREAS there is overwhelming evidence that in the present war the armies of the Central European Powers and of their Allies have been permitted and encouraged to commit and, officers and men *en masse*, have actually and persistently committed every form of sexual offence against the women of every country they have entered;

**Appeal Sent to the Allied Government by Committee on The Protection of Women Under International Law, Eagle Building, Brooklyn, N. Y.**

WHEREAS such offences are crimes as well under the laws of war as under the laws of peace, as well under the common law of nations as under the municipal law of every nation which is even superficially civilized; and under the Hague Conventions;

WHEREAS such crimes, besides their monstrous insult to the dignity of womanhood, strike at the heart of society, the home. And the deliberate, wholesale, authorized commission of them by the Germans and their Allies confronts society, accordingly, with the alternatives: *either*, acquiescing in its own destruction, to allow the violation, the mutilation, the enslavement and compulsory prostitution of women and girls to become established by force of precedent as a permitted custom under the laws of war; *or* unmistakably to destroy that precedent;

AND INASMUCH AS more than a million French women have unitedly appealed to the women of all countries to join them in denouncing this infamous and sinister attack on the common life of humanity through its womankind;

THEREFORE we, women of the United States, hereby—

1. Associate ourselves with the women of France in their Protest and Appeal, which is annexed hereto.

2. Demand that whatever in the present war would or might stand as a *precedent* for these dangerous and degenerate villainies in any future war be met and broken at the final peace by the *counter-precedent* of trial before an international tribunal and punishment, on conviction, as a criminal of every officer, soldier or civilian of either of the said Central Powers or of any of their Allies who shall be accused, whether as principal or accomplice, of any sexual offense against a woman (excepting women of the said Central Powers and of their Allies) in the course of the war.

3. Declare our own deliberate feeling, judgment and position to be that all women so injured by a despicable enemy ought to be treated and regarded, not as shamed, but as honorably wounded in behalf of their country. And we implore our Allies to confer that status on them, both officially and in the public mind.

Furthermore, we direct our Committee in Charge to deliver these Resolutions, duly authenticated, to each of the Governments (including our own government) allied against any or all of the said Central Powers and their Allies in the present war, and to each of the societies associated in the appeal of the French women, and to arrange, so far as possible, for their publication in every allied country.

## Calls for Home Gardens to Supply Home Tables

### U. S. Department of Agriculture Offers Government Advice. "Back Yard Farmers"

The eagerness with which German soldiers dropped their rifles, cried "Kamerad!" and called for soup; the wails of hunger from the former empire of the ex-kaiser; wails of the same sort from Russia and elsewhere—these and other instances indicate the part that food had in forcing an end to the fighting and victory for the Allies and the United States.

American farmers have won unstinted praise for the way in which they increased their production; home gardeners in city and country now are coming in for compliments of the same character. The farmers were the heavy artillery of America's food army, but the home gardeners were the auxiliary troops—delivering lighter individual blows, perhaps, but in total a huge assault—and to the home gardeners is given credit for a definite part in throwing the food balance in favor of the forces of freedom.

The home garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture would be far from claiming that the home gardens of America, numerous and productive as they were, "won the war." But they do believe that the home gardens supplied vegetables that decreased the demands on meat and wheat and other staples, produced food at home without calling on the railroads to carry it, saved many a dollar that went into Thrift Stamps and Liberty Bonds, and in such ways contributed beyond doubt to the strength of America mobilized.

*This Year's Need Just as Great.*—In 1919 the need for food is changed from that of last year, but it is just as great. There will be fewer American soldiers overseas to supply with food, but there will be more hungry civilians of other nations. The railroads will still be overburdened and will have no more space than necessary for transporting food. The state, the county, or the town that feeds itself will be contributing to the essentials for reconstruction "over there" and readjustment at home. The home that feeds itself, at least partially, will be helping the Nation as well as itself.

Every American home with a suitable plot of ground will find it advantageous to help feed itself by a garden. The garden will reduce food bills, insure the freshness and quality of the family's vegetable supply, furnish healthful exercise, and give an insight into the workings of nature. It will be converting unused land and spare time into food.

*Government Prepared to Help.*—The Department of Agriculture has made ready to give help to home gardeners and carry out the same slogan as last year, "A productive home garden on every farm and a backyard garden for every village, town and city home." It will work in direct coöperation with the extension forces of

the state agricultural colleges, one of the most extensive organizations of this character ever formed in the world. The horticulturists of the department have the campaign in charge, acting for both the Bureau of Plant Industry and the States Relations Service. In most states are home-garden specialists representing the extension service of the state colleges and the department, and in addition the 2,500 county agricultural agents and the 1,700 home demonstration agents in the United States will give active aid as a part of their duties in encouraging food production and conservation. State and local organizations will receive the active aid of the federal agency, and boys' and girls' agricultural clubs in all states will enlist a huge army for productive work.

The gardening information to be supplied the public by the Department of Agriculture and the coöperating organizations represents the best thought resulting from years of careful investigations by the horticultural specialists employed by the government for this purpose, and who are responsible to the government for the reliability of their conclusions. The Department of Agriculture, the state agricultural colleges, and the Bureau of Education (which is enlisting the interest of teachers and school children in gardening) are the only official sources of information on this subject.

The department is supplying information to newspapers for publication. It also has ready for distribution three important bulletins. They will be sent free of charge to all Americans who ask for them. They are: Farmers' Bulletin 934, "Home Gardening in the South"; Farmers' Bulletin 936, "The City and Suburban Vegetable Garden"; Farmers' Bulletin 937, "The Farm Garden in the North."

### Home Garden Movement Permanent

No doubt is seen that the city home garden has come to stay. City people have learned how good and fresh vegetables can be when they come right from their own back-yard gardens. They have also learned that a garden helps to get rid of that jaded feeling that follows a hard day in the store or office. It has been shown that the home vegetable garden is something that the whole family can get interested in and help to care for. The schools are teaching the principles of gardening, and the boys and the girls by this method are getting acquainted with mother nature and learning the value of efforts put forth intelligently and systematically.

There were some failures last year. But their number was small when the number of home gardens is considered. A fact of large importance is that in cities having twenty to thirty thousand gardens less than 1 per cent. of



failure to complete the season's work was reported.

Department specialists emphasize that production of vegetables in back yards and on vacant city lots is not a fad, but a substantial economic movement. Thousands of people have become permanent producers and are adding materially to the creative forces of the United States.

#### What the Gardener Needs

The essentials for a good garden are a little land, plenty of sunshine, a few seeds, some tools and an abundance of enthusiasm and work. Given these, all other difficulties can easily be overcome. At least one million families last year attempted gardening for the first time, and the greater part of them succeeded.

There is always something of interest in the garden from the turning of the first spadeful of earth to the gathering of the crops. There are difficulties to be overcome, but to the true home gardener a few potato bugs or some weeds merely are the obstacles to be met in any striving for good things. In some cities last year prizes were offered for the best gardens, but in many instances the winners never claimed them, for they considered the garden and its products their greatest prize.

The United States Department of Agriculture is ready to give tested advice to both experienced and amateur gardeners. A postal card request to the department will bring free its bulletins on this subject, written by government specialists to embody the results of many years of investigation in such form that they will be readily understood.

### Why This Young Mother Keeps up With the Times

**Even Though she has all her own Work to do and a Little Son to Mind, the Woman, Five Doors Away, is Content to Stay in her Own Little Rut**

Down the street lives a married woman of twenty-seven, with a little boy of three. And five doors away from her lives another young married woman about the same age, with a youngster who is also three. A little girl this time. Neither of these mothers keep maids; they do all their own work with the exception of the washing. I draw this parallel in circumstances first because it throws into relief the utter "differentness" of these women's lives.

The first young woman mentioned is as much interested in what is going on in the world as if she were a man out among men or a woman who had the advantage of going to club meetings and various other places of enlightenment. Of course, this little mother has not that advantage. She belongs to one club, but that is all the time she can afford.

The second mother might as well be living in the back hills of Kentucky for all she knows of affairs. She had the same educational advantages as our other friend had, but has somehow slipped into a state of knowing nothing more than whether she will have ham and eggs or bacon and eggs for breakfast; whether she will or will not wash Martha's corduroy coat this morning or tomorrow morning.

Now these things are important, and the extremists who imagine they can ever lure women entirely away from them are sadly mistaken. But why in this age when the world is a-teem with things to know must a woman allow

herself to become a piece of wood mentally? While there are books and magazines and newspapers to read there never can be any necessity for it.

The first woman to whom I referred tells me she would no more go to bed without reading the newspaper all the way through than she would put her little son to bed without washing his face and hands. In fact, she connects reading newspapers and magazines with the welfare of that small young person.

"I believe" she told me once, "it is positively necessary for me to keep up with what is going on all around me if I am to be a real comrade as well as a mother to my boy. He'll be learning things in school that his poor little mother won't know anything about if I'm not careful. It's the same way with his father. Here he goes down to an office and associates day after day with business girls who are very well informed. Do you think I could expect him to have a great deal of respect for my mind if I didn't know a thing or two myself? No, indeed; taking time each day to read and keep up with my one club are as important to me as any part of house-keeping and lots more important than some of it."

In the meantime the little woman five doors away is content to go along her narrow little way. Foolish little woman—picking out the path that leads to old age first. For a woman, mind you, cannot be younger than her spirit.

—Evening Ledger.

## France Calls to Me

By HARRY WEBB FARRINGTON

## I

Across the sea  
There comes the call  
From France to me;  
I hear the muffled, tender sound  
Of little children under ground  
Denied, bereft of everything:  
The right to play, to learn and sing.  
Dear little child  
Across the sea,  
I'll come to sing  
And play with thee.

## II

From over there  
I hear the call  
Of France in prayer:  
The women calling for their mate,  
Now widowed by the Huns of Hate,  
Brides, homeless, childless, all alone,  
Are brooding o'er a pile of stone.  
Heroic souls  
I'll come to share  
Thy bitter grief  
And blind despair.

## III

From over sea  
There comes sad sound  
From France to me;  
The painful peal of broken bells  
Now shattered by Satanic shells,  
The war-sick wind that wails and whines  
Through battered walls of sacred shrines.  
O House of prayer  
Where God's still found,  
I'll help to heal  
Thy wicked wound.

## IV

Beyond the Seine  
I hear the cry  
Of France in pain;  
The shrieks from shell-hole, trench and wire,  
Men crazed by gas and liquid-fire,  
Dumb agonies from No Man's Land,  
Low groans beneath the surgeon's hand.  
O stricken land  
Where evils reign,  
Thy call to me  
Is not in vain.

## Why

"Is it going to be funny now, mother? . . . Is it going to be funny soon?"

"What did I tell you about talking out loud," snapped the mother.

Then the scene changed to a near tragedy for the heroine and the piping voice began again:

"Oh, mother, she had better go back. She is going to get into trouble now."

I turned and saw a little child, with hands clasped in front of him, his whole attitude tense with his excitement and his eager, eager eyes fixed upon the stage of rapidly moving pictures. Yards and yards of passion, immorality, vice and crime, police court and prison scenes in all their ugly reality.

"Madam," said I, "this is a terrible thing for a little child to see." She replied in a superior sort of a way, "He doesn't mind; he likes it." Then to the child she explained, "See, it is all going to turn out right. Don't you remember I told you the man who took the other man's wife is going to send her back? Don't you remember?"

Yes, he remembers that and much more, . . . and will our efforts later really erase those horrid impressions emphasized as they were by the barbarous clang of the so-called interpretive music?

The shame of it!

The pity of it!

The selfishness of it!

Mothers, why feed the mind of your child with the husks of perverted living, when you select proper food for its body?

Why make beautiful the outer when you allow the inner to become foul?

Mothers, why are you not willing to take the child by the hand and live with him for a few brief years?

At your very feet and round about you are the marvels old-time singers knew; the wonderland of the grass; the temple of art in a flower's heart waiting to reveal their hidden mysteries to all who seek to enter the royally draped portals.

The fascinating stories in earth, sea and sky are being repeated before your very eyes day by day.

Why lead the child, helpless and unresisting, into the midst of the gross and artificial while all nature is calling to the child—and you.

Mothers, if you cannot hear, then demand that the child has a right to see moving pictures that are clean and interesting and see to it that you know where you are taking the little child who is yours for such a few short years.

**Dorothy Dix Gives Message to Mothers of New Orleans Congress on Child-Welfare Day, February 17, who Met to Organize a State Branch  
N. C. M. & P.-T. A.**

We have met together tonight for a purpose that is only second in importance to the great meeting that is taking place in Paris. We have met to try to unionize motherhood, to unite the silken, gossamer threads of mothers' influence that spread out from millions of homes, and weave them into a mighty cable by which we will be able to raise the ideals of the whole world to the stars, and bind all the forces of evil, hand and foot, so that they shall be powerless to do harm.

I think that never before in the history of the world have we had such a conception of what motherhood means as we have now. In one of Barrie's stories, a fond and devoted sister asks her small brother if he loves her. The little lad writhes in boyish embarrassment and replies, "Love is an awfu' word to say when folks are weel." That is the way the average person thinks of motherhood. When we are well, and prosperous, and things are going all right, we take our mothers and their love and anxiety, and their preachments as a matter of course; we laugh at them when they warn us about wearing our rubbers and not getting our feet wet, and tell us to be sure to come home early, and to watch out for automobiles in crossing the streets. But when the dark days come, and our skies grow black and trouble knocks at our door, then the oldest of us and the wisest of us are like children crying in the dark for our mothers. We want mother's hand to hold while we go down into the valley of the shadow. It is to mother we turn in our sorrow. It is on her lap we want to lay our heads and sob out our hearts, and be comforted even as a mother comforteth one who mourns.

The doctors and the nurses who have come back from the great war tell us that the one name that the dying soldiers called on in their last hour was invariably mother. They had forgotten all other loves, they had forgotten wives and sweethearts. In their last extremity, they had only remembered the one human being who had never failed them, who had never turned a deaf ear when they cried for help.

The canteen workers have told me that the women that the boys hung about most over there were not the pretty young fresh-faced girls, lithe and slim and gay, but the stout, gray-haired, soft-faced women who reminded them of their mothers. As illustrative of this, one woman told me a delicious story about a six-foot doughboy and a piece of apple-pie.

It seems to me that when so many women are realizing for the first time all that motherhood means, and so many men have had it borne in on them, also for the first time, just what their

mothers are to them, it is the psychological moment at which to spread this Congress of Mothers over the whole united world, and bind all mothers together. Someone has beautifully said that God could not be everywhere at once and so he made mothers, and so it behooves us to use this omniscience to its uttermost power for good.

It is a bromide to speak of the power of a mother's influence. Where is not one of us who does not know that when we come to the great crisis of our lives we do not sit down and philosophize or reason about the course we take. Something in us that is the very warp and woof of our characters and that is stronger than we are—something that is made up of the songs that our mothers sung to us in the cradle, of prayers that we lisped at her knee, of half-forgotten words that she whispered to us as she tucked us in our little beds, of stories that she told us, of ideals that she held before us—rises up in us and gives us the courage and the backbone to take the hard and narrow path and walk it to the end, shoulder our burden and bear it without whining, or else we turn cowards and quitters, and join the motley throng of those whom a mother's bad influence has made those whose feet take hold on hell, as the Bible puts it.

Nor do we need now to urge on anyone the value of coöperation, of people working together instead of singly. That's another lesson the war has taught us. If there had been only one patriot in the United States, he could have done nothing to save the country. Even if all the citizens of this city, and this state, had been patriots, their influence in the war would have been practically worthless if no other section of the United States had been patriotic, but when every man and woman and child in the United States burst into a white flame of patriotism, when every man was willing to fight, and every woman ready to serve, and every child buying war stamps instead of candy to help the government, we became an irresistible force before which the enemy capitulated.

Now the trouble with mother's influence has been that it has been individual instead of communal, and that is why it has not accomplished more. It matters little if I keep my dooryard clean if my neighbors have cesspools on either side, but when we all clean up we get sanitary and healthy.

So my influence over my child is nullified by my neighbor's exercising no restraining influence over hers, for my children are copy-cats, and it is utterly impossible to keep them from following the footsteps of the other youngsters with whom they play and associate.

We have at the present moment a most poignant example of that in the indecent dresses in which young girls appear in public and the still more indecent dances in which they indulge. Surely, the great majority of mothers must shudder with horror when they see their young daughters go forth to public dances in a semi-nude state, in gowns in which three layers of chiffon do duty as a bodice, and when they dance with men with their cheeks touching the cheeks of their partners and go through gyrations that were copied from the abandoned hula-hula dances of the Orient. Each mother will see that she cannot make her daughter dress in a modest manner, because all the other girls are wearing dresses that are cut C in the front and V in the back and O under the arms and skirts that are shorn off for high water. Nor can she keep her daughter from dancing the tickle toe and the other dances whose very names are not to be named in a meeting like this—because all the other girls are dancing these same lascivious dances.

And the individual mother is right. She can't keep Mary from wearing and doing what Sally, and Mildred, and Myrtle and Maud are wearing and doing, but if the mothers in any community were united, and spoke as one woman, they could stop any abuse they wished, over night. The fashion makers must sell their wares, and they would turn out decent clothes, if decent clothes were demanded for young girls by the amalgamated order of mothers. No cabaret or restaurant would dare import the dances of the slums of South America and Hawaii as they have done for the last five or six years, if the Mothers'

Congress put down its big substantial broad-soled foot and said "We only let our daughters go to places where respectable dances are respectably danced."

And if all the mothers of the world were united, think of not only the vices that they could stop, but the virtues they could foster. For one thing, they could bring about a domestic millennium in which divorce would perish, and there would be no more pitiful half-orphan children with no father, or mother or else with two or three fathers or mothers and with no peaceful home atmosphere to grow up in.

If the united mothers of the world would pass a resolution to raise good husbands and wives for some other mothers and daughters and sons, there would be no more unhappy marriages. Every boy would be brought up to realize that when he took a woman's life into his keeping, he assumed a great responsibility, and that he must be very tender and kind and just and generous to her, and every girl would be taught that marriage meant something more than a meal ticket, and that she owed it to her husband to be thrifty and industrious and cheerful and loving, the kind of a wife who keeps her husband on his knees thanking God for his good fortune, instead of wondering how he came to do it.

But abler speakers than I will tell you what benefits of uniting all the mothers in the world together would be. It would be a power for good such as the world has never known, and so I urge every woman who has the welfare of her own children and of humanity at large at heart, to join the Council of Mothers and help make the world a safer place to live in.

## How I Made My Home Attractive for the Young People

By F. G. B.

For several years I watched my sons and daughters grow up and quietly, and at first unnoticeably, drift away from home. The evenings would usually find them at some neighbor's house, where they seemed to enjoy something which their own home denied them. At first I lapsed into fits of melancholy because I thought we were too poor to have the things which make the home attractive. Finally I decided to make an effort to change conditions.

One day while walking near a pine woods I noticed a huge, peculiar shaped pine root. I realized this would make a unique rustic seat, and when placed under a large oak tree in my yard with vines partly covering it, the desired effect was obtained. One of my sons is very handy with the saw and hammer. At my suggestion he made a very creditable swing which was also placed under a tree. A few more seats were placed about, and the result was pleasing and inviting.

Next I turned my efforts to transforming the front porch. Fortunately I had a very large one, but no flowers, hammock or cozy chairs adorned it. Soon I had several ferns and other plants rooted, and I bought a very pretty but inexpensive set of porch furniture. The transformation was satisfactory. Our home was prettier than ever before. It looked cool, comfortable and attractive.

I looked about me and noticed that my neighbors had some kind of music in their homes. There was none in mine. We could not afford a piano. I had some money I had been saving for unexpected demands, but I decided I could not spend it for a better purpose than to buy a victrola and a few good records.

With very little trouble and expense I feel that I am amply repaid by seeing my children enjoy their home. They like to bring their friends in for the evening, and now my house is one of the popular gathering places of the town.



## Physical Education

By DR. ANNA SCHRADER

Among the many disadvantages of the war of the rebellion, we had all the horrors of bloodshed and destruction on a large scale, without the advantage of comparing ourselves with another nation. Comparison is exceedingly interesting, sometimes giving our complacency a very wholesome jolt. We like to think of ourselves as a nation beyond compare. We have found by our recent draft experience many dismaying facts. There were over seven hundred thousand men of draft age who could neither read nor write; not necessarily foreign-born either. The physically unfit in this country averaged about thirty per cent. These figures are taken from the report issued by the Provost General of the first draft. We learn to our surprise that our country is in need of much more physical education. We are shocked to be told that the older states in the Union are in such bad condition physically. The physically unfit averaged thirty per cent. in our whole country; in our own Pennsylvania 46.67 per cent. unfit.

Now, with these figures staring us in the face and with Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York and the other older states deficient in manpower, it is most important that our organization consider seriously our problem of physical education. If we are to solve this problem, we must give respectful attention to other viewpoints than our own and must welcome criticism, however unflattering.

Dr. Owen of Chicago places health first on the school curriculum, but he states that we have failed to consider definite aims and achievements for various grades. "History repeats itself." It was the exigencies of the war and national defense, the need of man power, that was responsible for the first efforts to conserve infant life.

The basis of all physical education is medical inspection and physical examination. We have not yet been able to convince our school people that these are essential, but this war has given us a convincing argument. After the thorough physical examination comes the work of the physical director or directress as the case may be. Before this comes the task of convincing the parents of the necessity of physical training for their individual child. For some reason, not easily explained, there is a great prejudice to be overcome against gymnasium work for girls.

If we can convince parents, mostly mothers, that every menstrual irregularity, every little tired feeling, every emotional disturbance, so common at the adolescent period, is not due to the baneful influence of the gymnasium work; if we can once overcome this prejudice by no means limited to the mothers, it will be clear sailing indeed. Only too often the good old-

fashioned family doctor sends word, "This child walks a mile to school and does some house work and so gets plenty of exercise and will therefore not require the ministrations of the physical director." Many women who do housework all day and half the night too would be immensely benefited by systematic physical culture. Much more so the growing child, who is forming habits of posture, faulty posture almost always, unless specially trained. We have in our city cards which the high school girls take home to be filled out by the parent or guardian. One question is, "Do you wish any particular attention paid to the student by the physical director?" Seventy-five per cent. of the answers formerly were "No. We have our own doctor." We do not wish to doctor the child. We wish to train his muscles and body to good habits of posture. We would like the parent to say, "Yes. This pupil is 'round-shouldered, hollow-chested, stands on one foot habitually, has one hip more prominent than the other, one shoulder higher than the other and if possible we should much appreciate having this corrected.'"

Good carriage is not attained by resolving to stand up straight unless backed by systematic training of the muscles which hold us up. Dr. Sargent says, "From the time a child leaves its mother's arms and begins to stand and walk alone, there is a force with which it, in common with the rest of mankind, is always contending; this force is gravity. We are battling with this force from morning to night, yielding to it partially as opportunity offers to assume a sitting position, and finally yielding to it completely, as we do each night, when we sink to rest in a horizontal position. But this force not only acts upon the body as a whole throughout the day, but upon each individual part of the body. Thus the head tends to drop forward, the shoulders to round over and droop forward, the back to curve, the chest to become flattened and compressed, the knees to bend, the arch of the foot to break down, and so forth. This nature's attempt to seek an equilibrium. . . . And the only way that this downward tendency can be overcome is by constant exertion of muscular force."

The average parent very often has not noticed how Johnny or Mary slouches along. We will say the mother, because the responsibility usually rests with the mother. If she has noticed, and she is a careless individual, she attributes the bad posture to heredity, saying the child takes after one or the other parent. Heredity is only a slight factor. Or she accepts certain irregularities of the child's figure protestingly, with an oft-repeated "Throw your shoulders back."

Several years ago the American Posture League was organized by a group of physicians and educators, and very good study has been done by experts along the lines of clothing, including shoes, furniture for schools, shops and offices. Proper seats have been worked out for some of the cars of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company. A standard movable school chair and desk have been remodeled and have given great satisfaction in their use. A child's seat for an automobile has been designed from anatomic measurements. Even the humble panty-waist has had flattering attention paid to it and become a very proper dignified garment with reinforced straps coming up close to the neck, so that the weight is borne from there, which is the right way. They have right posture suits for boys too. You can get data on any American Posture League, No. 1 Madison Ave., New York City.

George Elliott says something somewhere about a new angle of view, and remarks how strangely very familiar objects will appear when viewed from this new angle. Now, I want to suggest to the mother that she look at her child in a new way with a seeing eye. Many mothers see their children undressed every day, or nearly every day, clever observant mothers, women who make a serious profession of their motherhood, looking if Johnny's ears are clean, or if Mary bites her nails, but they do not see the growing deformity of their children. When the realization is first brought home to them that their child has one shoulder much higher than the other, or one hip much more prominent than the other, or the spine has some extra unsightly and entirely unnecessary curves, they are extremely dismayed to say the least. They cannot see how such a state of affairs got past them. Now, I want to suggest how it might have happened. When the mother sees the child undressed, she is busy helping with the bath or dressing, the child is in all probability not standing still, not standing at attention as it were. If you wish to criticize the posture, have him stand at attention with his feet perfectly even, not one advanced more than the other, arms hanging at side, head erect, and looking straight ahead; and I assure you after some thousand examinations that it is not easy to accomplish this. You would not believe how difficult it is to get the average child to stand thus for a few minutes. Now, remember, the toes on a straight line, compare the height of the shoulders, the hips, compare the two sides, inspect the spine, the feet, the carriage of the head, if the habit of standing on one foot exists, you will be surprised to find even with the most obliging coöperation on the part of the child in how few seconds the little body seems to crumple back into the posture which is habitual for this particular individual. The habitual position in which the body maintains the erect attitude, whether the posture be good or poor, becomes

ingrained as it were in the nervous system, or that a habit is established of associating that particular combination of muscular tension with the erect position. The muscles become molded to this particular shape, just as a glove becomes molded to the shape of the hand, and maintain the form when all conscious influence is withdrawn. It feels right to stand in this habitual posture, and to change to a new posture, however much that release cramped breathing movements and improve the position and action of the organs, will seem strange and unnatural.

We will assume that it is a girl child we are inspecting. If she has been allowed to carry books or younger children habitually on one side, you will find one hip much more prominent than the other. Now, this is a very important point. Dressmakers and tailors will tell you that no figures are absolutely symmetrical; "the two sides are always different." To a certain extent this is true, but it is largely preventable, especially if the little child is taught young enough, and we hope if we meet with intelligent coöperation on the parent's part that the next generation of dressmakers and tailors will not have that excuse for their illfits. Now, given a girl child who from some cause or other, such as rickets in early childhood, has softer bones than the average, unnoticed she carries her books or younger brothers or sisters on one side, she has one hip much more prominent than the other. Her pelvic diameters are much modified. She pays agonizingly for this neglect should she bear children. It has a tremendously far-reaching effect on her life, happiness, and well-being. Now, don't misunderstand me. Every little maid with one hip out of plumb is not a candidate for the operating table when she has her baby, but I do say that it is an unnecessary deformity; nine times out of ten entirely preventable, and in the severer grades it is disastrous for the future of the girl if she attempts motherhood.

I will just refer to a kind of book bag made to prevent any one-sidedness on the part of the carrier, the knapsack style. One mother told me she kept an entire set of school books at home for her girl to do away with her carrying them.

In younger children, being allowed to sit flat on the floor with the legs stretched out straight, has a tendency to cause round-shoulders. The seats should be raised off the floor level, a folded blanket or comfort placed under the buttocks. Children six or eight years old sit for half hours at a time practicing with the piano stool so high that the child's feet do not touch the floor. This is a great developer of round shoulders. Every pupil in piano and violin playing is taught most carefully the correct position of wrist and fingers, but how many instructors ever say a word about the posture of the rest of the body? Yet this matter has great bearing upon accomplishment, because of fatigue due to faulty posture and resultant inattention.

Little children should be taught to sleep without pillows. It is a fine habit and if ingrained early will help greatly in establishing habits of good carriage. Now, suppose the mother finds when she has the child undressed some of the conditions just spoken of, what should she do? "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing, but it is not so dangerous after all so long as we know it is only a little."

In this coming year if we can convince one per cent. of the mothers of Pennsylvania—this one per cent. to act as leaders in a movement to secure better physical training for their children, to improve their muscular tone, their power of coordination, their ability to act quickly in an emergency, to improve their general health, their carriage, their well-being; I personally consider that we had made a good start.

Dr. Frederick Peterson, of New York, in an address at Pittsburgh, in a list of what should be done, says, "Every city and country school should be made sanitary and kept so, every child should be regularly weighed, measured and examined, and a health record kept, which should accompany him throughout his school life. It should be the duty of the authorities to see that the defects of our young citizens are corrected and disorders of growth and nutrition remedied. This should not be expected of any physician as a small task worth from two to five hundred dollars a year. No one can afford to take a proper interest without proper pay. Such a beginning would awaken interest in public health and go far toward that ideal state of making good health catching."

Let me tell you what they are doing at the William Penn High School for girls. They chart each individual spine. They use a strip of adhesive plaster six inches wide and twenty inches long. This is placed on the back of the child and a record taken of a lateral curve by marking the vertebrae. They also mark the height of the shoulders and the height of the hips. *After special exercises given to each pupil separately for five months*, this record which is kept in a special book, is again placed on the girl's back and the second record taken. They often get a marked improvement and sometimes a complete cure.

Years ago only the children of the very rich could have such attention. I wish to call your attention to the fact that such work can only be done by experts, and special exercises given to each pupil separately would necessitate quite a corps of physical directors. Salaries for such experts might seem large at first consideration, but the good accomplished for not only the community at large, but the future of the race would justify the expenditure.

Now, we have spent millions of dollars on the swine plague, foot and mouth disease of cattle, pine blister, chestnut blight, gypsy moth, chicken cholera, and we have that annual pork barrel of

millions on millions of dollars devoted to all sorts of trivial and foolish exploitations of rural creeks and hamlets, but what have we spent on our greatest national asset, the health of body in our school children? Body is the foundation on which mental structure must rise. It is of the first importance that the physical foundation be made and kept sound and strong. The mental structure is secondary to that. We are spending enormous sums on the medical care of our insane and other defectives in institutions all over the country, and rightly so, to do what we can to repair our broken adults. This is relief work; but what we spend on preventive measures, on health education for our growing children, is, indeed, small by comparison. Compulsory education we have—compulsory feeding and training of the mind. Compulsory health we must have—compulsory feeding and training of the body. "In the war against ignorance, we have conscripted the school children. They are the vast draft army of our second line of defense. But in what sort of cantonments do we house them? What physical drill do we give them? What medical inspection and care? What sanitation? What remedial steps do we take to restore them to the ranks when they are ill?"

Authorities show us that there are physical defects in seventy-five per cent. of the twenty-million school children, most of them preventable and remedial, heart and lung diseases, disorders of hearing and vision, malnutrition, diseased adenoids and tonsils, flat foot, weak spine, imperfect teeth, and among them one per cent. of mental defects. The children in country schools are worse off than in city schools. We are sending the best we have to foreign battlefields. We are retaining the thirty percent of imperfect citizens to leaven the race of tomorrow. There is a such a thing as prepotence of inferiority.

We must set up a standard. It might be that of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes to begin the education of a child a hundred years before it is born. That can be accomplished in a few generations. To accomplish it we must coordinate all the organizations now at work for the conservation of our citizenry—maternity classes, the baby-savings societies, the mother's committees, the kindergartens, the child-welfare and physical training bodies, the seaside and countryside and sunshine associations, all that have to do with pre-school welfare, the public and private schools, the child labor committee, the mental hygiene association, the board of education. This is a great undertaking, but we can begin by breaking into the curriculum of the public schools and establishing education in health. From the schools the health instruction will be carried home to the parents and younger children, and soon the whole movement of reconstruction will permeate the state.

## Teach Your Child the Value of a Dollar

By ROBERT B. WILSON

In this day and age of the world, especially the past three or four years, money has been more or less plentiful on account of the laboring man receiving higher wages than ever before. While food prices and other things have advanced accordingly, times have been prosperous. If a dollar or so slipped away through careless handling we thought very little of it because we knew more was forthcoming.

But times are apt to change in the coming years, and if the present generation is not taught the value of the dollar it may make it harder for them in the years to come.

How many children nowadays really know just what it means to earn a dollar by real physical or mental labor? Very, very few, I venture to say. If they want new clothing or books, shoes, etc., they ask father or mother, and they generally get them—which is all right, and should be the case. On the other hand, if there is any entertainment going on or they wish to go to the movies, father or mother are again asked for money. Either hands it over just because he has it and wants sonnie or daughter to go and have a good time with the rest.

That is one side. There is another side where perhaps father hasn't the money to hand over, or where father has it, but will not be parted from it. In the first case of this paragraph there is not much to be said. Usually every one of the family have to work to be fed and properly clothed and they as a rule know the value of a dollar. But where father has plenty of money and refuses to let the child handle any and also

keeps him so busy at home that he can earn none by working away it is deplorable.

There comes a time when the child is thrown upon his own resources. Sometimes in younger years and sometimes later, but the time comes, nevertheless. Then will show the training he has received. If he has been taught that for every dollar received something must be done or given in return he is on the road to success and happiness. If he has had the chance to earn this money by his own efforts and been allowed to spend it himself, with a little judicious advice from his parents now and then, he has a store of knowledge that is going to be worth real hard dollars and cents to him.

In my opinion all children, as soon as he or she is large enough, should be taught to perform simple duties around home. This should be expected of them and they in return should expect no recompense in money from their parents. We should not keep them so busy at home that they have no time to play or take the snow shovel and clean Mr. Smith's walk, who has no children and who would be perfectly willing to pay little Johnny fifteen or twenty-five cents for doing it.

Let them do odd jobs for the neighbors and receive the money for it themselves. If the money is needed to buy clothes and shoes, go with them and help them select the same and pay for it with their own earnings. Give them the credit and allow a small reservation for personal pleasures. It will pay in the end and pay well.

### What a Girl, Nearly Blind, did to Help U. S.

Of all the stories of garden club members that have come to the United States Department of Agriculture, none tells of more devoted work than that of a Berkshire County, Mass., girl, now blind in one eye and losing the sight of the other.

She raised a pig in her pig club when the government called for more meat, and when the Army called for fruit pits to make gas masks, the number of stones she gathered was the second largest individual number in the county. And she cultivated a garden successfully when the government told the necessity for more food production.

"I was very much interested in club work this year, and I was very happy while working in my

garden," wrote this girl in her story. "I knew that all the time I was working in my garden I was helping Uncle Sam."

Except a few furrows turned by her father where the land was particularly rough, all the work in her garden was done by the girl, and in addition she helped her father in his food plot. Between the lines in her report may be read some of her difficulties.

"The greatest delight my pig had," she wrote, "was jumping the fence of his pen and rooting in my garden."

But nothing daunted her, and the surplus products of her work, stored for the family's winter use, made a fine showing.



**The American Boy and His Home\***

BY FRANCIS GREENWOOD PEABODY

The first thing to say about the American boy is that it is a part of the problem of the American home. Behind all the suggestions which are now so freely made concerning the training, duties, opportunities and temptations of boys there stands always in the background the larger question of domestic integrity, unity and permanence. The problem of the family is the crux of modern civilization. When one examines for instance the program of industrial revolution with its economic propositions concerning the control of property, he may be startled to find that this revolution in property holding involves a not less revolutionary change in the domestic relations.

Here then is the fundamental fact about a boy. A good boy is the natural product of a good home; and all the efforts of philanthropy to make boys better by wholesome schemes of education or recreation are but imperfect substitutes for the work and play which are the spontaneous products of a healthy minded home. The professional "worker" among boys is like a physician called to visit a child, who administers to his little patient tonics, drugs, and exercises, while all the time he is aware that these prescriptions, however serviceable they may be, are but substitutes for the fresh air, good food, and simple living which the child should have had in its home to fortify its life against weakness and disease.

At this point, we come upon the great and overshadowing peril of a boy's life. It is not, as many suppose, his bad companions or his bad books or his bad habits; it is the peril of homelessness. Homelessness is not merely house-lessness,—the having no bed or room which can be called one's own. It is the isolation of the boy's soul; the lack of some one to listen to him; a life without roots to hold him in his place and make him grow. This is what drives the boy into the arms of evil, and makes the street his home and the gang his family; or else drives him in upon himself with uncommunicated imaginings and feverish desires. Such a boy verifies that experience of which Jesus spoke, where a life was like an empty house, and because it was empty there entered seven devils where one had dwelt before, and the last state of the man was worse than the first. If there is one thing with which a boy cannot be trusted alone it is with himself. He is by nature a gregarious animal; and if the group which nature provides for him is denied, then he gives himself up to whichever group may solicit. A boy, in all things in nature, abhors a vacuum; and if his home be a vacuum of lovelessness, then he abhors his home. This risk of homelessness is, however, not run by poor boys only. There is, of course, a type of poverty which necessarily involves homelessness,—the life of the street-

Arab or the tramp. Yet, in the vast majority of humble homes one of the most conspicuous and beautiful traits to be observed is the strength of family affection, resisting every kind of strain,—the wife clings to her drunken husband, or the parents protecting their wayward son even against the advice of the judge upon the bench. On the other hand, an increasing risk which many prosperous families encounter is the tendency to homelessness, the temptations of the nomadic life, as though a home were a tent which one might fold "like the Arab, and silently steal away"; the slackening of domestic responsibility through the habit of transient of boarding-houses or hotels as refuges from the cares of a home.

The fact is that between some boys of the most prosperous and some of the least prosperous type there exists a curious and often unrecognized likeness of condition. He may run great risks of shifting and temporary incident. Rich parents may be so completely preoccupied with money-making or money-spending, that their home becomes little more than a sleeping place; and poor parents may, though with better reason, be separated from their children from early morning till late evening by the necessities of bread-winning at the factory or shop. In either case of homelessness, therefore, there is the same necessity of finding some substitute for a home. For the homeless children of the poor, philanthropy has devised a placing-out system, which deports boys from the homelessness of a city to domestic life in rural communities. For the homeless children of the rich a similar placing-out system has been provided by the establishment of boarding-schools, where devoted and intelligent teachers accept the parental responsibilities which overburdened or self-indulgent parents decline.

There are, it must be recognized, many circumstances of duty or occupation in the complexity and migratoriness of modern life which make it necessary for parents to live where it is not expedient for boys to be, and which therefore may compel this delegation of parental privilege. Yet, admitting these important exceptions, it is evident that the general consent of prosperous parents to commit to schoolmasters the training of boys in the most critical and formative years of life indicates in many homes either a distrust of parental capacity to rear children, or a subordination of the care of children to other interests of social life. Much may be gained by this system of delegated parenthood. A boy is likely to acquire in his boarding-school a sound body, a passion for athletics, a fine sense of manly honor, congenial companionships, and even, under skillful teachers, some taste for study; but it is not improbable that he may miss something of

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the considerateness and self-sacrifice which are the natural products of the intimacy, discipline, and even friction of a judicious home. If, therefore, the boy is normally the product of a home what kind of American home is likely to make the right kind of American boy? There are, it would seem, three characteristics which a boy must recognize before he will think of his home as good, and which if he does recognize them as marks of his own home, will make him remember that home as the most precious of his moral inheritances. The first of the characteristics is simplicity.

Simplicity, however, does not mean meagerness, or emptiness, or lack of comfort, or even the absence of luxuries. Some good homes are luxurious, and some are bare; and bad homes may be found among both poor and rich. Simplicity is the opposite of complexity; and the home which is blessed with simplicity is an uncomplicated and single-minded home, free from decisive interests and conflicting desires, finding its happiness in common sympathies and joys. A simple home, that is to say, is simply a home; not a step to something else, not an instrument of social ambition, not a mere sleeping-place, like a kennel into which a dog creeps for the night; but a center of affectionate self-denial and mutual forbearance; an end in itself, as though the main concern of the family were simply to make a home and to keep it simple. When a boy discovers that his parents find their satisfaction elsewhere than in the home,—in the club of the prosperous or in the saloon of the poor—then the boy will also follow the group-instinct as it leads him to the street or the gang; in so far as he sees the home satisfying his parents, it is likely to satisfy him.

The second mark of a good home is consistency. The parental discipline of the home is to be chiefly maintained, not by precepts, but by the consistent conduct of the parents themselves. A boy is not easily moved by exhortation, but he is affected with extraordinary ease by contagion. A boy is in many points immature and unobservant, but one trait in him is highly developed,—the capacity to detect anything that looks like humbug. If he observes any considerable inconsistency between precept and example, between exhortation and character, all the well intended efforts of his home are likely to be in vain. Nothing is more contagious than a consistent life. We hear much of the self-propagating nature of disease and sin, but these ills which are contrary to nature are by no means so easily transmitted as is the contagion of goodness. No greater mistake can be made by parents than to fancy that a boy is naturally inclined to go wrong; and no mistake is so likely to make a boy go where he is expected to go. The fact is that anything is natural to a boy. He can be bent crooked or kept straight like a growing bough; and the chief reason why goodness does not appear to him more tempting

than sin is that goodness is seldom made so interesting, picturesque or heroic as sin.

In the Oriental picture of the shepherd and the sheep in the Fourth Gospel, the shepherd goes before and the sheep hear his voice and follow him. That is the only way to be a shepherd of boys. They are as hard as cattle to drive, but easy to lead. There is nothing they like better than a consistent, single-minded, straight-going leader, and when they hear his voice they follow him.

Out of the simplicity and consistency of a good home issues its third characteristic. It is that relation between children and their parents whose historical name is piety. The word has not only become involved in religious implications, but also carries with it a suggestion of unreality, formalism, ostentation, or pretense. A pious person is apt to seem to a healthy-minded boy an artificial or sentimental creature. Yet piety, in its Latin usage, was the name for duty and loyalty of a child to its parents, or of a wife to her husband. Æneas, in Virgil, was called pious because he was a good son of Anchises. Piety toward God is, therefore, nothing else than the affection of a son translated into a religious experience. Man, as Jesus taught, is a child of God, and turns to God just as a human child turns to its father with loyalty and love. When the Prodigal Son comes to himself, he says, "I will arise and go to my Father." Religion, that is to say, regards the universe as a home; and duty conceived as loyalty to God becomes piety. This, then, is the American home which makes the right kind of American boy,—a home where simplicity and consistency open into piety where a boy thinks of his father not as a drill-master or fault-finder, so that the first instinct of the boy is to keep out of the way; or of his mother as yielding a fragment of her day to her children, while committing their nurture for the most part to hired experts; but of both parents as comrades to whom it is a happiness to go, and as advisers from whom it is safe to learn. As the course of experience broadens with the years, and the problems and temptations of maturity confront the man who was once a boy, he looks back on these parents and this home with a piety which needs little expansion to become a part of his religion, and finds in that retreating reminiscence of his boyhood the most convincing picture which he can frame of the discipline and watchfulness of God. In a most profound and searching sense the prayer of Wordsworth is answered in the experiences of his life:

"The child is father of the man,  
And I could wish my days to be  
Bound each to each by natural piety."

Under what conditions is that relationship of domestic piety most naturally attained? Is it one of the perquisites of prosperity, so that to those to whom much has been given have added

to them this further blessing? Or is it, on the other hand, a region of the kingdom of Heaven which they who have riches may hardly enter? Fortunately for American life no such fixed relation exists between condition and character. Prosperity may be as free from complexity, inconstancy, and impiety as is poverty; and poverty may by its overwhelming weight repress affection and joy. Yet, on the whole, the special privilege of domestic intimacy, with its parental satisfactions and its filial piety, is more accessible in modest and unambitious homes than among the complex and divisive interests of luxurious conditions. This is one of the facts of civilization which go far to atone for inequality of economic opportunity. Wealth may bring to a home many advantages, but the problem of the American boy is certainly harder to meet where sacrifices are not demanded and self-indulgence is not prohibited. The home which is most likely to produce the best kind of boy—and the type of home from which, in fact, the vast majority of effective American citizens have sprung—is where plain conditions, hard work, and mutual sacrifices have stiffened the will, softened the affections, and prompted that simplicity, consistency and piety which are as precious possessions to a man as to a boy.

At this point, then, the problem of the American boy merges in the larger problem of the American character. What the boy is to become is in the main determined by the prevailing habits, customs, and standards of American life. Miss Jane Addams, with her habitual insight, once said of social service: "We cannot do

much for the poor." The saying is not less true of boys. We cannot do much for boys; we can only do things with them. The first problem set before a parent is not to make his boy good, but to make himself what he wants his boy to become. The first condition of doing good is being good. Filial piety is the corollary of parental wisdom. The dominant note of the American character is repeated in shriller tones by the American boy.

And how is this preliminary obligation of parental fitness to be met? It is most naturally met by accepting to its full the reaction of the boy on the life that wants to help the boy. The boy has as much to teach as he has to learn. Each demand laid on the parent to advise or correct the boy is at the same time a demand laid on the parent to test his own character. To desire that one's boy shall be unstained and healthy-minded is to be pledged to the same law of life. However much one may fail in parental wisdom, it is far worse to practise parental hypocrisy. He must, therefore, so far as grace is given him, be what he prays his son may be. His boy is a mirror in which he sees himself. The most poignant sorrow which he can imagine or endure would not be the perdition of his own soul, but the inheritance or contagion of his own sin reproduced in his own son; and the most justifiable and permanent happiness which can be his, in this world or another, would be derived from the assurance that his boy must legitimately trace his health of body and his strength of will to the influences of his boyhood's home.

## Coöperation of Religious Bodies

### Commissioner of Education Outlines Program

By DR. P. P. CLAXTON

Our responsibility today is more than a personal one. We are responsible for the soul of our country, and in the fulfillment of this responsibility the forces organized in places of worship can be most helpful.

They can increase in all irrespective of race, those spiritual capacities which enable them to be good citizens and to dwell together in brotherhood.

They can help by encouraging all newly arrived immigrants to learn all they can about America, its history, its laws, its customs and ideals, and to become owners of homes rather than to continue to live in tenement houses.

Churches and synagogues where new Americans worship, can observe American holidays, commemoration days and festivals with appropriate sermons and other fitting recognitions.

They can provide social occasions when native and foreign-born can meet for recreation, rest and opportunities for mutual understanding and appreciation.

They can give all recently arrived immigrants some vision of the nobility of America, and their officials can preach loyalty and the unity of many races in one nation on the basis of brotherhood and that tradition of idealism upon which America is founded.

They can see that religious bodies establish contact with immigrants of their faith immediately after their arrival and render such service as is needed. They can furnish volunteer workers for the various forms of Americanization work: teachers, domestic educators and directors of immigrant information centers. They can

furnish standards and methods of work to each new worker.

Churches and synagogues can help the immigrant mother and sister whose sons and brothers have gone to the front, with protection and comfort. They can help them to understand us while we try to understand them. They can win them for America by fostering their trust and letting them find us sincere, fair and magnanimous.

They can help the members of their congregations to avoid detrimental comparison of races, as all races have a native capacity for good citizenship. They can make the place of worship a center for Americanization activities, encouraging and helping all to speak our language, meet native Americans and have opportunities for learning American standards of living and of citizenship. They can encourage the men to give their wives and children an equal chance with themselves to know America, to learn the language and follow those ideals of social intercourse which belong to a democracy.

#### POINTS TO REMEMBER

The more we teach and secure facilities for teaching the language of America, the more we decrease the liability of foreign-born men and women to exploitation, industrial injuries, social segregation, transiency and un-American standards of living.

The more the new American is treated with humanity, democracy and equality, and native born Americans respect his contribution to our country to the extent of eliminating paternalism, nicknames, racial prejudice and campaigns without his coöperation, the more will he love America, wish to become a citizen and make a home here for his family.

The more the American community provides accurate information on laws, the war and American ideals, and protects immigrants from exploitation, insanitary housing and other forms of social neglect, the less shall we hear of the alleged "menace" and "problem" associated with each new race that arrives.

The more that native American men and women make friends and coöperate with foreign-born men and women, learning their abilities and needs, stressing their good qualities and showing generous, sincere appreciation of all points of difference, the less shall we speak of them as "hordes" or generalize in false estimation of the significance of their presence with us.

The more we all practice our Americanism: enforcing good laws, providing just labor conditions, actually working with those concerning whom we have bright ideals, and with tireless enthusiasm consciously building a nobler nation, the more certainly will the hundreds of thousands of our foreign-born American soldiers return from the trenches and find the America worth fighting for awaiting them.—*Americanization Bulletin*.

## Protect Women in Stricken Lands

### Mrs. Beecher and Others Appeal at Plymouth Church for International Law's Aid

From the pulpit of Plymouth Church appeals were made by women of France, Belgium, Serbia, Italy and Poland in behalf of the profaned womanhood of those countries which have been devastated by the armies of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey. All of the speakers made it plain that the Central Powers have waged the war drawing to a close, not only against the Allied armies, but against the womanhood of those nations with which America has allied herself.

As a result of the meeting strong resolutions were unanimously adopted urging upon those who will dictate the terms of peace the infliction of the severest punishments against those who have outraged womanhood on such a wholesale scale. The meeting was arranged in response to the plea of the National Council of French Women and has resulted in the formation of a "Committee on the Protection of Women under International Law."

The objects of the French Council are the care and restoration to health of those countless women who have been broken in body, mind

and spirit through the brutality of the Huns and their allies. "Thousands and thousands have committed suicide, guiltless of any wrong."

The evidence, that Germany and her allies have been permitted and encouraged to commit every form of offense against the women of every country they have entered, is overwhelming. Such offenses are crimes, under the laws of war as under laws of peace. They strike at the very heart of society—the home.

More than a million French women have appealed to the women of all countries to join them in denouncing this attack on its womanhood.

The Committee of the Protection of Women under International Law has passed resolutions to the effect, that every officer, soldier or civilian of the Central Powers who shall be accused of an immoral offense against any woman of the Allies shall be convicted as a criminal; that we implore our allies to confer that status on them, both officially and in the public mind.



## Touch-Hunger

By PROFESSOR M. V. O'SHEA

Psychologists say that every child has a hunger for experiences which are necessary for his development. He is hungry for sounds, sights, tastes, smells and muscular strains and stresses. These are all of fundamental importance in the building of his mind. A child would be an idiot who was not hungry for these sense experiences. The only way he can learn about objects is by investigating them with every sense that will give him any information regarding them.

Many persons who realize that a child must see, hear, taste and smell all the objects around him in order that he may come to understand them do not appreciate that the hunger to touch objects is probable more acute than any other kind of hunger. Frequently people think a child is mischievous or wilful when he handles the things around him when is told not to do so. How often one hears parents and policemen and guards at museums and all such folks say to children, "Don't you touch that! Can't you keep your hands off from things? I told you if you touched any of those things again I would punish you," and so on. But a child will handle objects, even in the face of certain punishment, because his hunger for touch sensations is so overpowering that he cannot restrain it.

What is to be done about it? In the first place, the child should have as great a variety of objects as possible, to touch and use in his play activities. He should be permitted to explore everything around him by means of the sense of touch. If necessary, the parent or the teacher

or the guardian should stand by and see that no harm is done to valuable objects or to the child himself. But if the typical child be permitted to investigate such objects as books and china until he has discovered how they feel and how they are constituted, until his touch-hunger regarding them is gratified, he will be likely to let them alone thereafter unless he needs to use them in some of his games or plays. A wise parent or teacher would provide books, dishes and the like which could be used in play, and which would make it unnecessary for the child to experiment with delicate things of real value.

If a parent leaves an unoccupied child in a room which is furnished with fragile, delicate furniture which he can reach, and if he is not permitted to gain touch acquaintance with these things under the guidance and supervision of the parent, then there is almost certain to be trouble. The child will handle the furniture when the parent is not looking, and accidents will happen. Montessori apparatus, kindergarten materials or Candoit toys in a house will keep a young child out of "mischief" that may result disastrously to valuable books or china or other furnishings. Catalogues describing these various educational playthings may be obtained upon request from the manufacturers: Montessori apparatus, House of Childhood, New York; Kindergarten materials, Milton Bradley Co., Springfield, Mass.; Candoit toys, The Fallis Toy Shop, Denver, Colo. A sandpile or gymnastic apparatus out-of-doors will surely lessen any child's "mischievousness."

## Why a League is Inevitable

By DR. TALCOTT WILLIAMS

When a deed is done for Freedom, through the  
broad earth's aching breast  
Runs a thrill of joy prophetic, trembling on  
from east to west.  
Nation wildly looks at nation, standing with  
mute lips apart,  
And glad Truth's yet mightier man-child leaps  
beneath the Future's heart.  
For mankind are one in spirit, and an instinct  
bears along,  
Round the earth's electric circle, the swift flash  
of right and wrong;

Whether conscious or unconscious, yet Human-  
ity's vast frame,  
Through its ocean-sundered fibers feels the gust  
of joy or shame;  
In the gain or loss of one race all the rest have  
equal claim.  
Once to every man and nation comes the mo-  
ment to decide,  
In the strife of Truth with Falsehood, for the  
good or evil side:  
Some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering  
each the bloom or blight.  
"The Present Crisis." Lowell, 1848.

## Child-Welfare Notes

## THIS SOUNDS LIKE BUSINESS

On May 7, 1917, the Hon. T. W. McGarry, Provincial Treasurer, established the Ontario, Canada, Provincial Motion Picture Bureau under the direction of the late Mr. S. C. Johnson, who had been engaged in making films for over a year previous. It is in line with the basic idea that the programs of rural meetings in places not now served by commercial theaters be made more attractive by supplementing the regular showing of educational films with comedy and drama reels. These have featured Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Max Linder and other famous people.

There is a sound business reason in this move, for beyond the unquestioned benefits the remote rural residents will derive from these comedy films, there is the result of greatly augmented audiences at these educational meetings—and the increased receptivity to educational influences.

The Bureau has traveling lecturers and seventy-five or eighty machines. The libraries of films include interesting reels on vegetables, fruits, bees, live stock, canning, good roads, dangerous insects, use of machinery, seeds, butter-making, cheese, milk, herds, grains and other subjects.

In the hundreds of rural meetings held for a year the average attendance is around 85. In four weeks' meetings in 45 counties the total attendance was 67,081.—From *Reel and Slide Magazine*.

The government departments at Washington, which now possess many forceful films, might well copy this Ontario system. They are far more effective in producing subjects than in bringing them to the American public.—Ed.

The fame of the Thrift work done by Mrs. C. E. Stoddard, chairman of Thrift, National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, has extended to Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. "The Link" is a model little sheet published to carry home news to the soldiers, and a novel idea is a blank page on which a letter may be written to go with the home news. The editor writes Mrs. Stoddard as follows: "There are hundreds among our readers at home who are war workers who would be glad to learn how you make those thirty-seven different garments from our worn shirts."

Will you let us have a few lines for our little letter paper about your work?

JACK CRAMPTON ANDREW,  
Late 3d Brigade, Gun Company

A New Haven, Conn., minister said in a sermon on January 5:

"Blank opposition to the cinema on Sunday evenings is not going far enough. We ought, as

ministers, to do some constructive work—put the cinema in a group of churches on Sunday evening, especially during the winter months, when the weather is bad and outdoors unattractive. Let the church of the future use the cinema. Being exempt by law from taxation, she owes it to the people to make their Sunday evenings very much more interesting than the bottom of a well. A kind of a 'dog-in-the-manger' attitude will only serve to bring to pass what we seek to avoid; not destruction, but fulfillment should be our motto. Otherwise, the saying is still true—'the children of this world are, in their generation, wiser than the children of light.'

"In my judgment the cinema is a more momentous invention than that of printing, as what appeals to the eye in the form of a picture is a greater power than that which appeals to the eye in the form of cold type.

"Such a Sunday evening service would give two problems: first, the problem of doing something with our churches Sunday evening, other than closing them, and second, the problem of the wise and beneficent use of the leisure which that ancient institution called by various names, the Sabbath, Sunday, the Lord's Day, gives."

Rev. James C. Erwin, assistant pastor of Grace M. E. Church, New York City, has reported exhibitions from October, 1918, to January 11, 1919. The following is a summary for Saturday, December 7:

2.30 P. M. *Children*.—110 Sunday School free tickets, 445 with admission ticket and penny, total, 555.

*Films*.—"He Comes Up Smiling," Famous Players-Lasky, 5 reels, showing Douglas Fairbanks. The comedy is clean, and full of action and beautiful scenery. Burton Holmes travelog on Florida, 1 reel; Universal Weekly—current events (both very interesting). N. B.—Three children enrolled for Sunday School as new pupils.

*Story*.—"A Boy's Hand and a Fish Story," using the Bible story of the loaves and fishes.

7.30 P. M. *Adults*.—Attendance above 400. Collection \$17.00.

Same program as above, except the story. Many commendations, no criticisms.

These meetings are feeders to the Sunday School and Church.

## FARMERS PRAISED FOR THEIR WORK

The part played in backing up the war by the millions of men, women, boys, and girls on the farms and the organized agricultural agencies assisting the, including the Federal Department of Agriculture, the state colleges, and departments of agriculture, farmer's organizations, and the agricultural press, is striking, the Secretary

says, but is altogether too little known and appreciated. Within the last year, however, he sees a change. The attention of the world has been directed to its food supply. The towns and cities, he points out, all are directly dependent upon agriculture for their existence, and most of them for their growth and prosperity. They must of necessity taken an intelligent, constructive interest in rural problems and in the betterment of rural life. They can do this effectively, he says, only as they inform themselves and lend their support to the plans carefully conceived by the federal and state organizations and by the more thoughtful and successful farmers. Marked responses in every part of the Union are noted to appeals that have been made by the department to enlist more complete coöperation by bankers and other business men, and of their associations in the effort to make agriculture more profitable and rural communities more healthful and attractive.

"It seems clear," the Secretary says, "that there should be no cessation of activity until there has been completed in every rural community of the Union an effective sanitary survey and, through the provision of adequate machinery, steps taken to control and eliminate the sources of disease and to provide the necessary modern medical and dental facilities, easily accessible to the masses of the people."

#### COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICE, I. K. U.

The call for social-service-during-the-war is too distinct to be neglected or misunderstood by us. "This is the child's year" has been declared by our government, and our time has come to show the value of trained and sympathetic assistance in our communities' endeavor to register all babies, and to weigh and measure all children under six years of age. Physicians and trained nurses are giving freely of their services in this great work. Can we, as kindergartners, do less, knowing as we do how many defects can be remedied if discovered during childhood,—how many limitations can be overcome if parents can be shown how to help us remove them?

From all over the country comes the testimony as to the helpfulness of the trained kindergartner in this kind of work. Can we serve our country better than by helping this child welfare campaign to prepare stronger, more efficient, and better citizens for the problems which must inevitably follow the close of the war? Let every kindergartner who can spare a few hours of her time volunteer to help in this work.

Again, our government, through its Bureau of Education, is sending out some vitally valuable circular letters concerning the kindergarten as an important instrument in education. Now that the youth of our land through the dire necessities of war must be cut off from the last year or two of their education, can we not arouse the public to the fact that one or two years may

be added at the bottom by establishing more kindergartens? Habits of head and heart and hand thus established will do much to help balance the loss of training in the higher educational lines from which our country must suffer in the next generation. Urge this argument wherever you can. Send to the Bureau of Education for articles written by kindergarten trained mothers, and for suggestions made by Commissioner Claxton, and get your local papers to reprint them, either as weekly or daily articles. Many of the leading papers of our country are doing this.

Such an opportunity to serve humanity has never before presented itself to our profession, and in this way we can help insure the safety of democracy in the future of our beloved America.

ELIZABETH HARRISON,  
Chairman

#### SEVEN STATES WORKING FOR KINDERGARTEN LEGISLATION

Special interest is being shown this winter in legislation to promote the extension of kindergarten classes.

During the past year the United States Bureau of Education has urged civic organizations and women's clubs to work for more kindergartens as a vital wartime necessity to care for the children whose parents were both busy in the prosecution of the war.

It becomes daily more apparent that the care of the children of the alien is a problem second in importance to none; and as the kindergarten is known to be a vital Americanizing agency, the interest in this department is receiving special attention at this time.

Word has been received that efforts are being made to secure kindergarten legislation this winter in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas and Arizona.

The most popular model is the law in force in California under which its kindergartens have more than trebled.

President Poincare said when opening the Peace Congress: "But justice is not inert, it does not submit to injustice."

Is it not unjust to provide for only a small proportion of our children an educational advantage which all are entitled to receive? Those awake to the privilege of aiding this movement are invited to write for information to the Kindergarten Extension Division of the United States Bureau of Education or the National Kindergarten Association, both located at 8 West 40th Street, New York.

#### CONVERTING TROUBLESOME BOYS TO GOOD CITIZENSHIP

One of the most interesting features of the welfare work carried on by The National Cash Register Company, of Dayton, Ohio, is among the children of the city. The way so-called bad

boys of Dayton were converted to good citizenship by The N. C. R. is a classic in community welfare work, and has been told all over the world.

John H. Patterson, president of The N. C. R. Company, long ago realized that it was necessary to have a firm foundation for any permanent good. As the boy is said to be the father of the man, so the efforts of this great organization were directed toward the youngsters of the community, as well as toward their elders, in a campaign for good citizenship.

The boys and girls of Dayton are being instructed in the things that are worth while. Boys' gardens, girls' gardens, community playgrounds, and the Boys' Box Furniture Company are but a few of the steps.

One of the most effective methods of implanting in the minds of the young the seeds of self-knowledge and future good citizenship, has been found through the medium of entertainments which are both educational and interesting. These entertainments are held each Saturday morning in The N. C. R. School House and at The N. C. R. City Club.

All the boys and girls in Dayton are invited to come to these meetings, which are free to everybody. The program usually starts with the singing of illustrated, patriotic songs by the boys and girls. Then the company physician, Dr. F. G. Barr, gives a short talk on health. This is presented in such a way that the children will understand and appreciate it. Stereopticon views help bring home forceful points. At times other speakers talk to the youngsters on matters of common good, such as will benefit, and at the same time interest them.

After this, educational and comic movies are shown. The doings of the screen funnies make the children tremendously happy, and it's a treat to see those beaming little faces, and hear their joyous laughter. Following the pictures is the chief event of the morning (to the kiddies), when refreshments are served to the hundreds of little guests. The attendance at the two meetings is usually about 1,000. The time of the meetings is arranged so that one speaker can talk to both audiences the same morning. The meetings last about two hours. It should hardly be necessary to say that these meetings are very popular with the boys and girls, as well as their parents. The children receive the right kind of knowledge, presented in an attractive manner. The community gains valuable citizens and greater force for right and justice. Not only does Mr. Patterson gain happiness because of the good he does, but The N. C. R. Company has found that it actually pays in dollars and cents to have good government and a happy community. Satisfied workers, with a genuine feeling of pride and interest, have contributed much to the success and growth of this great organization.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

There is light on the horizon. Since 1914 eight states have enacted compulsory, state-wide physical-education laws. Most of them contemplate physical education in the broad sense. Some of these, though compulsory in form, are hardly more than permissive in substance; but they all point to a new emphasis on physical education in the normal schools. Several of them specifically include the normal schools in the application of the law. In New York, New Jersey and California, at least, the vivifying effect of these laws is becoming evident. In some instances readjustment of programs and ideals will be necessary. Three things will be required: (1) time, (2) careful planning of the course of study in physical education, and (3) broadly prepared teachers.

I suggest a minimum of one hour a day of enlivening and joy-producing exercise. This serves a double purpose: (1) to conserve and develop the health of the students and (2) to produce the raw material of personal experience without which it is hopeless to undertake to train teachers to teach.

Complementary to this at least one hour (period) per day should be given to instruction in the principles and practice of physical education. Not to enter deeply into details, under "principles" must be included the basic sciences anatomy, physiology, and hygiene—general, individual, and group; and the values of physical education—educational, social, civic, and economic.

Under "practice," certainly practice in hygienic inspection of school plant, in coöperation with medical inspectors and nurses, in conduct-of-posture examinations and tests, in direction of drills, gymnastics, and games, and in community recreation projects.

What we must learn is that this part of the preparation of teachers is of first importance, not an accessory to the formularies of mental development and discipline. War is a sifter of all things. Don't waste your time apologizing for the fact that from 20 to 30 per cent. of the children pass from the schools carrying with them the handicap of remediable defect and undeveloped mental and muscular power. Put an end to it. Lift from the schools the reproach that it is "nobody's business to look after the children."—W. S. Small, specialist, in *School Hygiene*, U. S. Bureau of Education.

## WHY THE KINDERGARTEN IS A VITAL AMERICANIZING AGENCY

The kindergarten is a tiny republic of citizens, often of different nationalities where the little people learn to understand and respect one another.

Here the child learns English and he teaches it to his mother in the home. He is trained in



loyalty to his country and takes ideas of patriotism to the family group.

The kindergarten teacher, being sympathetic and earnest, is interested in the mother's most precious possession—her little child—and so she is welcomed in the home that no other social worker may enter.

She makes the shy foreign mother feel that she is one of us, to be visited, and also entertained as a friend at the Mothers' Meetings in the kindergarten.

She brings the women of different nationalities together at the Mothers' Meetings where in time they realize that the presence of each one is needed to make the group complete. This helps to overcome the feeling of isolation which many foreigners experience because of their strange surroundings and their ignorance of our language. These Mothers' Meetings are a real factor in abolishing racial prejudices.

The kindergarten teacher helps the mother to understand America and American ways of life, and has a unique opportunity to inculcate American ideas and ideals. This leads to a desire on the part of the alien to become a citizen of this country and support its institutions.

She explains the questions regarding the war that puzzle the mother, thus combating the anti-American activities which are arousing the ignorant foreigner to unrest and disloyalty.

She becomes the mother's confidant, giving sympathy and advice in times of trouble, telling her of the Dairy Kitchen where free food may be obtained for the sick child and sending the doctor and district nurse in cases of illness and destitution.

She tells about the societies that make provisions for special emergencies and of those that will send her convalescent children to the country for an outing.

She explains our different articles of food and gives instruction in their preparation.

She helps the members of the family to secure employment, and advises with them when they are imposed upon by unscrupulous employers.

She explains our school system and urges the members of the family to join classes and learn to read and write English.

And above everything else she implants in the impressionable minds of our small future citizens the joy of living in an atmosphere of true democracy, for the kindergarten is a place where each one is free to develop along individual lines, the only restriction being that he shall not interfere with the rights of his little associates.

Will you help to get kindergartens established for all the children of aliens in your city?

## **Mothers' Pensions Help Solve Child Labor Problem**

The last lingering argument against child labor laws and their strict enforcement is being answered in a very practical way through the establishment of mothers' pensions, says the National Child Labor Committee in a statement showing the growing popularity of this form of relief. In 1913 the first mothers' pension law to go into statewide effect went into operation in Illinois. Today thirty-three states of the union have mothers' pension laws.

The primary object of these laws, says the Committee, is to maintain the home for the sake of society and the children. Through the death of the husband and father, or his incapacitation by illness, or his desertion, the self-support of the family falls upon the mother and children. If the children are put in an institution, or if the mother goes out to work and leaves the children at home uncared for, or if she stays at home with the children and starves with them, the home life is weakened or wrecked. School authorities say that when children stay away from school and the truant officer looks them up, it is almost always found that they lack home care, and usually it is because the mother must go out to work.

It is sometimes asserted that a hardship is imposed by child labor laws on families in which the wages of the children are needed for the

family support. Many such laws provide exemptions on the ground of poverty. But if the children join the ranks of child labor they are subjected to all its physical and moral dangers and are deprived of the education which in a democracy is supposed to be the right of every boy and girl. Mothers' pensions are a practical way of meeting the situation, as they prevent the home from being broken up for reasons of poverty, except where the mother is inefficient or immoral, and they enable the children to go to school. They also make life easier for officials entrusted with the enforcement of child labor and compulsory education laws, as these officials sometimes do not have the heart to refuse working papers to children whose families they know to be in difficult circumstances.

Mothers' pensions take the form of straight grants to deserving dependent mothers, but their basis is not charity. Their justification is like that of social insurance, as they represent a conception of the state as having a duty toward its citizens. The word "pension" is not always used in the statutes, the word "compensation" being substituted because it better describes the real purpose and spirit of this kind of legislation. In New Jersey the act is called "An act to promote home life for dependent children."

## Training Little Children

**Be kind but firm in your insistence on the right  
Once actuated by this motive a child will become considerate and generous  
Begin to form habit of self-reliance with children when they are little**

By MRS. RUTH HEPPNER SWAINE

The child is a primitive little being. His desires are near the surface, and primarily very selfish. He wants all things for his own. He must also be first in everything, and, if he is the biggest force in the play group, what more natural than that he should try to make everything conform to his wishes? But this same child, if once actuated by the right, becomes the most generous, the most considerate and the gentlest of little fellows. A few words, a firm but kind insistence on your part, and he knows the pleasure of giving up for others.

All children have their difficulties, with one another, and sometimes, if one judges by the noise in the back-yard, they are very big ones.

A moment's wait will usually show whether it is wise to run and help the children readjust their little world. Do this only when necessary. Hold your breath behind the door, and see if happily they are not righting the situation themselves. Even the physical hurts need much less sympathy than the average mother is apt to bestow. Would we coddle our children into becoming physical cowards? From earliest babyhood, begin to turn their attention when hurt to some new interest, and observe how quickly the pain is forgotten.

A strong conviction has grown out of the passing years of my motherhood that the greatest service a mother can do her child is teach him self-reliance. If you begin with the baby, the

habit forms easily and before you know it self-reliance has really become a habit with him. Hold yourself free from fear as he tries out his growing powers. Watch alertly, but wait. Let him try the reach that may topple him over, but secures for him the bright ball. Let him make all the moves he wants to, and if necessary, be there to catch him as he falls. Hesitate long before you turn a child deliberately away from the thing he has set his heart on doing. Strong initiative is too glorious a characteristic to nip in the bud. Try for one day to stop and think before you deprive your child of the pleasure of simple achievement.

There are countless little tasks a child can do for himself, to help mother. Each mother will think of many of these in the course of a day. Remember that in the child's world of new impressions, the most trite acts to us are, to him, the most delightful of plays.

Play is the vital employment of childhood. The art of playing alone, being friends with himself, is a foundation for self-reliance in greater things later in life. A child cannot be more than contented. So hesitate, dear mother, to interfere when your child is quietly employing himself in his own chosen way, even if it is only baby, with his toes. Let the spell last as long as it will; the next will last longer. Soon your child of three will play hours by himself. The busy mother often needs this respite.

## Toys "Made in America"

By MRS. MARTHA GALLAUDET WARING

"Clear track, toot-toot, ding-a-ling, chu-chu, all aboard!" all of which means that my two-year-old is at his favorite play.

As I look out of my window I see him on his kiddy-car pushing along with his sturdy legs and pulling a train behind him consisting of an iron locomotive and three cars. His point of departure is the "station," proclaimed a center of traffic by a "wind-up auto-delivery wagon," a small one-horse cart full of "wocks," and a two-mule cart in which sits Seraphina, his rag-doll, holding her baby. His objective is "Tybee" at the other end of the long straight piazza, so called after the island of that name which we frequently visit in the summer. A gateway, built up of one-inch cubes and long brick-shape pieces of wood, makes the entrance to the "island."

Boy has been playing this way the better part of an afternoon, with an occasional bit of encouragement from elder sisters nearby. He is playing with things that afford plenty of room for original work, manipulation, and imagination, the auto-toy being the nearest approach to a mechanical one, and the one he cares least about. Everything he has is solid and substantial enough to be really used and enjoyed.

As I watch him racing up and down in his kiddy-car, I wonder at his control over it until I study its simple and excellent mechanism. Its front wheel can turn in any direction, its steering gear is strong and easily managed and it is made entirely of wood. Both carts are also of wood, as well as the mule and horse, and all are well painted and strongly put together. The

cars are painted red, white and blue, so I know they are made in our own country. The rag babies we made ourselves, and although they are "of a crudeness," they are none the less beloved. The blocks were made by measure at a wood-yard. Being large and easily handled, a child can build gates, bridges and platforms with them big enough to walk under or upon, and strong enough to stand firm after they are built.

Our older children when they were small played principally with imported dolls dressed in native costumes. And I can remember that my brother and I had handsome books brought from England, that my finest dolls were French and his regiments of toy soldiers came mostly from the land of militarism.

But our Boy Baby, born during the World War and forced to rely on sturdy, home-made toys, is much better off.

There is a twofold lesson here for us mothers. One concerns the children themselves and the

other goes far afield into the laws of economics, world production and the like.

We have found that our own substantial, wooden, easily handled playthings are what our children need and want. Children's books we have a plenty, the most artistic, I suppose, in the world. And then we can demand well-made, pretty American dolls. It only remains for us to hold to all of these, and prove our patriotism by refusing to buy foreign manufactured toys even if they are put on the market again later on.

A far cry, isn't it, from Baby Boy with his "Toot-toot, ding-a-lang, chu-chu," on the piazza, to the law of supply and demand and the regulation of one of the great industries of the world? But in just such ways we are now finding out how great problems must be handled. We are going back to our earlier and simpler days, when we shall discard the non-essentials as so much waste and rubbish. Let us begin, then, at the beginning and stick to toys—Made in America.

## Enormous Loss by Influenza

**Life Companies Make Startling Returns—Totals of 120,242 Lives Lost and Claims Amounting to \$52,408,591 Already Reported—Figures Likely to be Doubled when Full Returns are Made.**

Life underwriters report that one of the peculiarities of the present epidemic is that an unusual percentage of the fatal cases occur among people between the ages of thirty to forty-five and this results in an abnormal mortality under policies which have only been in force from one to five years and against which little reserves had been accumulated. It is mainly to this phase of the situation that the difficulties of the newer companies are attributed.

One company in reporting its figures stated that they did not include losses reported, but on which the proofs of death had not been received and estimated that of such pending claims, those in which the cause of death was due to influenza will amount to at least \$500,000. One of the larger companies stated its returns for October and November included proofs giving the cause of death as influenza, showed an aggregate of over \$2,500,000 in excess of similar claims last year and said "they are still coming in daily."

Another large company which submits an estimate of its total influenza claims amounting to a very considerable sum stated that it was unable to give complete details, as the force of its claim department had been much depleted for some weeks by the epidemic and that those on duty were working late into the night to complete papers so that all payments might be made within twenty-four hours. It therefore could not make even an approximate estimate of those claims for which proofs of cause of death had not yet been received. One company stated that its epidemic losses would about equal the normal loss ratio, or in other words, its loss ratio for the past three months would show 100 per cent. increase.

The indications are that when the full figures are available it will be found that the total loss of insured lives will reach, if not exceed, 200,000, and that the claims will aggregate in the neighborhood of one hundred million dollars.

## If I Had Known

If I had known what trouble you were bearing,  
What grief was in the silence of your face,  
I would have been more gentle and more caring,  
And tried to give you gladness for a space.  
I would have brought more warmth into the  
place  
If I had known.

If I had known what thoughts despairing drew  
you  
(Why do we not ever try to understand?)  
I would have slipped my hand within your  
hand,  
And made your stay more pleasant in the land,  
If I had known.

—MARY CAROLYN DAVIS

## STATE NEWS

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

News items from the States must be in the hands of the editorial board by the first of the previous month to ensure their appearance in the next magazine. The editorial board earnestly asks attention to the necessity of complying with this rule.

The magazine invites wider correspondence with local circles and associations. Send us reports of what you are doing. It will be helpful to others.

The necessity for brevity will be realized, as space is limited and every month more states send news. News is WORK DONE, OR NEW WORK PLANNED. Communications must be written with ink or typewritten.

The CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE offers to every NEW circle of fifty members one year's subscription free provided that with the application for the magazine is enclosed a receipt from state treasurer showing that dues of ten cents per capita have been paid, and second a list of officers and members with their addresses.

This offer is made to aid new circles with their program and to give them the opportunity to become acquainted with the great organized parenthood of America.

Subscribers to CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE should notify the publishers before the 15th of the current month if the magazine is not received. Back numbers cannot be furnished unless failure to receive the magazine is immediately noted.

## ALABAMA

The Montgomery Mother's Circle celebrated Child-Welfare Day, the birthday of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, with a meeting and addresses by state and local presidents, a musical program and a birthday cake with 22 candles. As the cake was cut toasts were offered by guests and members. A generous contribution in a silver offering was made to the State for an organizer. A French orphan was adopted.

Huntsville Mothers' Round Table has given a tea once a month at Base Hospital for convalescent soldiers. Money has been given monthly to the milk fund, to N. Montgomery school for hot lunches and for flu patients, and secured from bakeries and grocers for donations the lunches.

The United Mother's Circle of Montgomery entertains the convalescent soldiers at the Red Cross Hospital every month.

The Circle is cooperating with the principal of West End School in the factory district. Ten children have been placed in school, provided with clothing and books. To see the happiness that it has brought into their lives and their mothers' has repaid the circle for its efforts, and it expects to provide books and clothing for other West End children who need help. A milk station has been established and partly supported by this circle. Child-Welfare Day was celebrated and an offering taken. All the members are helping to create sentiment for a juvenile court in Montgomery.

## CONNECTICUT

All members are busily engaged now, in preparing for the annual convention which will be held with the Hartford clubs, April 23 and 24. The Mothers Neighborhood Circle of the Northwest School of Hartford is continuing its Red Cross work on refugee garments and also assists in carrying on a milk station. Lectures on Americanization and War work have been conducted under the auspices of the Hartford Motherhood Club. A campaign for the purpose of giving instruction in health for school children has been carried on by this club. The New Haven Woman's club gave a delightful concert at the Allingtown Military Hospital for the men stationed there as well as the invalids who were able to attend. The West Haven club, of which Mrs. E. C. Littlefield is president, has conducted a series of lectures by Miss Stillman on Social Hygiene for Mothers which has been highly appreciated. The press throughout the state is keeping the question of child welfare before the public. The announcement comes from Hartford that in making public the docket of cases for the superior criminal court, juvenile cases will hereafter be eliminated from the published list and cases against persons under eighteen years of age will not be recorded publicly.

A powerful plea for the abolishment of child labor was made before the Federation of Churches.

Mrs. James P. Wood, president of the New Haven Woman's Club, represented the club at



the hearing before the Legislature on Mothers' Pension laws, and the matter of complying with the suggestion of the Governor, that a committee be appointed to investigate child welfare conditions in the state with a view to later formulating a child-welfare bill. Several members of the club also attended this hearing. Both of these measures were strongly endorsed by the New Haven club at the March meeting.

### FLORIDA

Eustis Mothers' Circle has survived through the strenuous times and has done what it could for the children here. Our Mothers' Circle is a study circle. We meet at the homes and can have quiet consultations as to how to use our influence to better conditions where we can. The Parent-Teacher Association meets at school and in public places and can reach those we cannot reach. We meet in private homes and can interest some they cannot reach. We attend the Parent-Teacher Association meetings and show our friendship to the teachers who are working for our children's good. With both organizations we cannot reach all mothers and fathers. This season the Mother's Circle has screened two rooms at the public school and insisted upon hiring a room outside to relieve crowded conditions in one room at school. We have a committee to meet the teachers and help. There is coöperation and no rivalry, but we mean to keep our Mothers' Circle a permanent organization and a member of National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations.

### GEORGIA

The Georgia Educational Association has invited the Georgia Branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations to meet in joint convention in Macon the first, second and third of May. Mrs. J. B. Chapline was appointed by the president chairman of the convention.

Great results are expected from this joint convention, says the state president, Mrs. J. E. Andrews, of Atlanta, which will bring school patrons and educators into a closer bond of sympathy than in the past. With the combined effort of our educational departments for the best interests of home, school and state educational interest will leap by rapid bounds. A Parent-Teacher Association in every school in Georgia is the aim of the Georgia Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers by 1920.

For every district in the state there are district vice-presidents whose duty it is to explain the aims and purposes, and to encourage the organizing of Parent-Teacher Associations in every school in their district.

Will the patrons and teachers in every school in the following counties consider this a personal word from their district vice-president? If you have a Parent-Teacher Association already

organized, won't you please write me about it, giving, in detail, all information that would be helpful to other associations newly formed? To those contemplating organizing, I will be so glad to give information on any subject, either through this department or by personal letter. Counties in the Sixth District are: Fayette, Spalding, Monroe, Upson, Clayton, Butts, Jones, Crawford, Henry, Jasper, Pike, Bibb.

The *Macon Daily Telegraph* gives two columns regularly to the vice-president of the Sixth District of Georgia. Fathers are urged to give more time and thought to the child's education. Governor Dorsey commends and endorses the work.

### INDIANA

The Indiana Branch of the Congress at a recent state board meeting in Peru, made great strides in their work by laying definite plans for two very important departments. At the state convention a Bureau of Finance was created, and plans talked of for raising a large sum of money for the work. These plans were left in the hands of the chairman of the bureau, and at the Peru meeting Mrs. Clark Gifford, the chairman, brought in well-defined plans all ready for execution. The work will be done under her direction.

Each county chairman will be asked to take her own county and develop the plans with her local organizations. There are many things suggested as ways and means. Rummage sales, markets, paper sales, box suppers, noon meetings in shops and other places where large numbers of men are employed. We feel that this work should be supported by the laboring class, since our work is public welfare work. We are advised to go before fraternal organizations, rotary clubs, and other men's organizations. The chairman advises a personal letter to friends and those who have shown interest in public welfare by previous gifts. Indiana thinks she will come through with a large gift for child welfare for both state and national.

Another fine plan is the Campaign for Better Rural Schools. Indiana is not the worst state in regard to her rural schools, but we want to head the states in this regard, and the request came to us from Dr. W. L. Bryan, president of Indiana University, a member of our State Board of Education, also member of our National State advisory Councils, that the Indiana Branch put on this campaign. It shows in what regard the Indiana educators hold this organization.

Many new Parent-Teacher Associations have come to us asking how they can affiliate, acknowledging that they can no longer work alone and grow, and it is certainly gratifying to those of us who have labored at this task to know that our work is bearing fruit. The state president has recently visited Greencastle where De Pauw University is located, and since her visit the

Parent-Teacher Associations have taken up the work of better films, and are planning to hold Saturday matinees for the children in the high school building. At Noblesville the interest has been growing under the leadership of their excellent local presidents and the efficient county chairman, and they are taking up a systematic study of the laws that concern the Home and School. The two they will consider first are the Medical Inspection Law, and the Mothers Pension Law. Marion County has under way a plan for a real community day. In each township there will be such a day with an athletic meet and an address by some one on some phase of the Health question, and the winners in each event in each township will be taken to the city to one of the parks, and through the efforts of one public spirited man, the head of the city park board will cooperate. Danville is the most recent addition to the family circle in Indiana, and we welcome this association most heartily into the state. They are alive in this place, and have already done much splendid work. Their great need at present is new school buildings and the superintendent of schools together with the Parent-Teacher Associations will work unceasingly for better school building facilities. The plan is to make the building in Danville a township consolidated school, and with the help from the township they can have a building adequate for the needs. Indiana has a law that permits this.

The local associations in Indiana have been very faithful in writing to their legislators concerning the passage of educational measures, and Indiana will raise the salary of her teachers. We lost the kindergarten bill through pernicious legislation, but we are hopeful even so. There are two more bills before the General Assembly which we are working to get through, one providing for a Rural School Commission, and another providing for the permission of school authorities to hire school nurses if they want to. Of course this latter bill will need to be pushed by the patrons even if it is passed, but we feel that after a law is tried out then if satisfactory and we can show results we will get it on the mandatory list.

Another fine thing that we are doing now is a state-wide drive for a 100 per cent. increase in membership. At our state convention we warned Kentucky and Ohio, and we drop a hint that dreams sometimes come true.

### IOWA

#### Parent-Teacher Associations, affiliated with the Congress during the past year

1. Nora Springs, Mrs. Walter Miles, president; Ottumwa.
2. Jefferson School, Mrs. H. M. Clark, president.
3. Irving School, Mrs. W. A. Carnes, president.
4. Stuart School, Mrs. R. A. Hall, president.

5. Douglas School, Mrs. Thos. Kent, president.

6. Rural, R. R. 6, Mrs. Fred Silk, president.

7. Logan school, Mrs. Brue Wood, president.

8. Humboldt School, Mrs. A. C. Olson, president.

9. Iowa City Child-Study Circle, Mrs. Roy Close, president; Newton.

10. Lincoln School, Mrs. Edw. Geise, president.

11. Washington School, Mrs. R. B. Helser, president.

12. Sibley, Mothers' Circle, Mrs. C. W. Brown, president.

13. Renwick School, Mrs. W. H. Martin, president.

14. Renfield School, Mrs. O. W. Terrill, president.

15. Roland School, Rev. G. Smedal, president.

16. Waterloo, John Fiske School, Mrs. T. J. Ellis, president.

#### Parent-Teacher Round Tables, Iowa Teachers Association, District Meetings

Leaders: Northeast District, Mrs. C. P. Colegrove, Fayette; Southeast District, Mrs. John Reading, Davenport; Southwest District, Mrs. Wm. Bailey, Atlantic; Northwest District, Mrs. M. G. Clark, Sioux City; Central District, Mrs. Z. C. Thornburg, Des Moines.

These meetings are held about the first week in April and afford a splendid means of extension work for the Congress, especially in the place where the meetings are held, resulting in organization, and eventually affiliation.

The Iowa Congress needs a larger corps of workers and intelligent, efficient and consecrated leadership, and welcomes both individual and association membership to this end.

Let us make the year 1919 a banner year for constructive work for the promotion of child-welfare.

#### Day Celebrated Here

Founders' Day was observed in Des Moines at the home of Mrs. Edward Paul Jones, president of the local Council of Mothers' and Parent-Teachers' Associations. This Des Moines branch was organized in February 19, 1899, with seventeen affiliated clubs by Mrs. Hillis, who served as its first president and is now its honorary president.

Mrs. Jones was assisted in receiving by the past presidents, Mrs. Charles E. Risser, Mrs. A. W. Brett, Mrs. Mary J. Bickley and Mrs. James P. Hewitt, through whose administrations the organization has had a steady growth. The presidents of the fifty-two clubs now affiliated with the council assisted as parlor hostesses and welcomed representatives from the clubs located in all parts of the city.

The main feature of the afternoon was the picture and book display in an art gallery and library arranged as an educational factor on the

third floor. The large collection of pictures appropriate for home and school included reproductions from the old masters, modern art, religious and patriotic subjects. One hundred volumes suitable for the development, education and enjoyment of the child, were loaned by City Librarian Forrest Spaulding. As in a typical art gallery couches were arranged where mothers could sit and study the paintings or books. The hostesses here were Mrs. N. W. Weeks, Mrs. A. W. Graham, Mrs. I. H. Carothers, Mrs. George Tones and Mrs. J. A. Blanchard. Principal E. J. Eaton, of West High, gave an address followed by musical numbers by children.

In the dining room a pyramid birthday cake bearing twenty-two candles in the council colors, pink and blue, centered the table at which presided Mrs. W. H. Harding, Mrs. Isaac Lea Hillis, Mrs. P. E. McClenahan, wife of the state superintendent of public instruction, Mrs. Z. C. Thornburg, wife of Superintendent Thornburg of Des Moines public schools and the principals of two public schools in which Parent-Teachers' Associations were first organized, Miss Clara Funston of Henry Sabin, and Miss Adelaide Laird of Kirkwood.

### Outstanding Accomplishments

The Mothers Congress has taken the initiative in many social reforms and movements, among its first suggestions being medical inspection in the public schools, the installing of the school nurse, more sanitary and cleaner schools, the establishment of playgrounds and play equipment and beauty, art and good music in the rooms. The study of children's foods, dress, amusements and the establishment of the penny provident saving system have emanated from the council.

During the period of the war this council with its coöperating teachers and parents was a nucleus for war work. So well organized was it that Red Cross units were established in many of the schools and domestic science rooms of high schools, where mothers, teachers and children made thousands of garments as well as surgical dressings. The Junior Red Cross turned out quantities of articles and many hundreds of dollars were usefully spent through the purchase of Thrift Stamps from the government.

Through the state organization many benefits have been derived. Traveling libraries of child study were sent out until the state traveling library took over the work. A free ward in the Iowa Methodist hospital was equipped for the care of poor children, and later taken over by the hospital.

Some of the outstanding accomplishments of the organization include the securing of the juvenile court law for Iowa during the administration of Mrs. Hillis, who later aided in securing for Iowa the child-welfare research station at Iowa City, which aided so materially in the

children's year work of the woman's committee of the national council of defense. The baby health contest movement developed and became nationwide in its scope during Mrs. Watts' presidency. The securing of the women and children's building at the fair grounds is accredited to Mrs. Brenton and her board.

Best of all, the workers rejoice in their greatest service—the awakening of parenthood to its great responsibilities to the little children, the citizens of tomorrow.

Mrs. Z. C. Thornburg, of Des Moines, has been commissioned by Superintendent Claxton of the bureau of education to prepare a series of suggestive programs for parent-teacher associations. Superintendent Thornburg's address a year ago at Atlantic City at the Parent-Teacher section of the National Education Association conference on "Program Making" has been put in bulletin form by the bureau of education and sent to all associations belonging to the congress.

Prof. Forest C. Ensign, of the state university, has issued an interesting contribution to the parent-teacher work in a bulletin on "Parent-Teacher Associations in Iowa," which has also reached our mailing list. While space is given to the work accomplished by a few given associations, it but typifies the splendid work being done all over that state, each association studying the needs of its own community, each expressing its own individuality, but with the general aim and purpose of these associations well in mind. The Iowa congress acknowledges this contribution of the state university through its extension department, and to Professor Ensign for high recognition given to the congress in its effort to unite the home and the school, and the bibliography which makes this bulletin a valuable guide in the making of programs.

Commissioner Claxton writes: "The biggest thing in this nation, so far as I can see, is the fullest possible development and use of the Parent-Teacher Association. An association should be organized in every community. It is the keystone of a vigorous, virtuous democracy."

Parent-Teacher round tables will be held in connection with the various district meetings of the Parent-Teacher Associations.

### MISSISSIPPI

The Parent-Teacher Associations of the state are planning to enter a year of extreme activity, that the conditions of Mothers and Children in Mississippi may be rendered more secure.

Will you not do your best in your community and county to push the work, stressing the necessity of a common school education for every child.

The following fundamentals and expedients are suggested; others will occur to you:

(a) Regulation of general labor conditions so that support of the family can be accomplished

without assistance from the children. The War Risk Insurance law by providing support for children up to eighteen years, sets a national standard for age up to which children need protection.

(b) Compulsory school attendance laws with high standard stipulations. The method of issuing employment certificates and the strictness of standards required in age, education and physical well-being are safeguards communities should assure to children.

(c) Adequate machinery for enforcing the school attendance laws.

(d) Securing Mothers' pensions, scholarships for children, and special relief in needy cases. Remedy of physical defects often makes possible a return to school.

(e) Insistence that the kind of schooling offered should meet the needs of all children. In addition to offering the usual sort of schooling, every community should devise some means for vocational training; should perhaps arrange continuation classes and have visiting teachers to meet the needs of special cases. Every community should also arrange for proper schooling of children afflicted with particular handicaps, *e. g.*, blindness, etc., and below per mentality.

We urge you to analyze the situation in your community and be unfaltering in your effort.

### OHIO

Ohio interest is lining up with the State Teachers Association. We will now have annual Parent-Teacher Departmental meetings at the annual State Teachers' meetings held in June in Cedar Point, up in Lake Erie, and probably round tables at the various district meetings of Ohio teachers.

A State Board meets in Cincinnati this month and one in Cleveland next month. Cincinnati has already held a meeting of the convention committee and started the ball rolling for a convention there next October that they hope to make an event long to be remembered. The Chamber of Commerce has offered their services to help make the convention a success.

The state president was most graciously received in Athens, where in the afternoon a capacity audience of several associations greeted her and showed keen interest in all the new and late phases of the work in Ohio and elsewhere. Sunnyside association was the hostess. Athens has a high school principal with remarkable musical ability, who has among his pupils, an orchestra, a brass band and a jazz band, all growing. The boy and girl scout movement is most advanced. Superintendent Morgan has a troop of his own, which I believe must be the record troop of the United States. It was on the scout movement that he addressed the greatest educational meeting of the year. Nelsonville also was visited, where another enthusiastic joint meeting was held. Athens

County is one that is starting another plan we are newly trying, that of developing a county organization by town associations fostering a rural one. Each takes out to its protégé ideas and talents of its own, until it gets its rural association going, when it is at liberty to help another. And in doing for others it strengthens itself.

Mrs. S. M. Williams, of Lima, and Mrs. Sawyer spoke at a meeting of Paickaway County Council in Circleville, which was starting in with new vigor. Since that time Circleville and the whole Ohio Congress has suffered a great loss in the death of Mrs. Lutz May, president of that fine High Street Association since its beginning, one of our best beloved workers, and such a splendid mother of several little ones.

Many associations are carrying on a health campaign. Painsville was using that one gotten out by the Tuberculosis Association, and most successfully. Columbus Associations with Mrs. McEwen as chairman is one of the organizations putting on a drive for \$50,000 for free dental clinics and every school and association in the city has had speakers on the value of the care of the teeth and good prizes given children in an essay contest on the subject. Mrs. McEwen is president of the Ohio Avenue Parent-Teacher Association and had 300 at her last meeting.

Ninth Avenue received a prize at its opening meeting for having the largest membership in the state, 146 state and national members. That was another huge meeting. The oldest children came also, as some formed the school orchestra, some had a vigorous debate. Parents sang solos and all women and girls brought box suppers which were auctioned off to the men and boys. It was a gala get-together evening.

Akron has 25 associations that form their Home and School League.

Among unannounced new associations are Lincoln School Mothers' Club, Dayton, Miss Anna Littell, president; Athens, Central Building Parent-Teacher Association, Mrs. C. T. Moore, president; Warren, East Market St. School Parent-Teacher Association, Mrs. Edna A. Ward, 423 High Street; Todd Avenue School Parent-Teacher Association, Mrs. F. W. Brown, president.

Ohio is delighted with the new membership blanks, also the "Suggestion and Plan of Work" by Mrs. Orme. The membership cards are very popular and will bring us many a member. Something tangible to show for your annual dime makes each wish to have one. We heartily welcome any new literature.

The great importance of the Parent-Teacher Associations has grown in the eyes of the educators, due to the fact that they are realizing that the parents of the community can do more for them than they ever can themselves by developing public sentiment to vote taxes for *funds*, without which as without health we can make little or no headway. We are for them, we



have shown them we are and together parent and educator will form a bigger better future for this rising generation of Americans.

### OREGON

The Child-Welfare Commission Senate bill has passed the Legislature, carrying an appropriation of \$6,000 biennially. The Oregon Child-Welfare Commission was the first one appointed by request of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations. Mrs. R. H. Tate, then president of Oregon Congress, worked earnestly to secure it, and by her persistent efforts in holding the work together when there was no appropriation its value was proved. Governor Wethycombe is a warm supporter of the measure and will doubtless appoint men and women of broad vision and insight to carry forward the work so ably begun.

The Parent Educational Bureau of Portland was also established by request of the National Congress Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association and has demonstrated its practical value.

"Let us give the children the right start in life and let us begin at the very beginning." The spirit and letter of these words, spoken by Julia Lathrop, head of the children's bureau of the Department of Labor, is daily exemplified in the work of the parents' educational bureau of the Oregon Congress of Mothers' and Parent-Teacher Associations, and it is for the maintenance of this work that a one-day whirlwind drive for funds was held with Mrs. A. F. Flegel as general and Mrs. I. M. Walker, Mrs. J. F. Chapman and Mrs. William N. Akers, major-generals, assisted by a corps of fifteen colonels, each of whom had ten captains, who, in turn had ten lieutenants each. Multnomah County was covered by this organization.

The object of the bureau is to disseminate knowledge, advice and counsel to expectant mothers and young mothers and fathers, to bring to them a knowledge of prenatal influences, of infant hygiene, adolescence, sex hygiene and the proper feeding, clothing and guiding of young children. The bureau maintains headquarters at 551 Courthouse, which is open daily for advice and consultation and the distribution of literature, bulletins issued by the children's bureau and other valuable publications. Books on infant and child welfare may be borrowed.

On Wednesday and Thursday afternoons eugenic tests are made to ascertain any defects in young children, and then follows advice by the attendant physicians, who give their service without compensation. The bureau was established in 1917, and since then 9,235 babies have been tested. It is impossible to estimate the good accomplished by suggestion and advice, but here are a few of the problems that have been met and successfully solved:

A six-months-old baby had slept on such a high pillow that it had curvature of the spine that required four months to cure.

A small child was allowed to walk lame for months, the mother thinking it would outgrow the trouble. Examination revealed a hip out of joint.

A mother of a six-months-old baby said her baby ate most everything, adding, "Of course I have to chew it for her first."

One mother, when told that her child was poorly nourished, confessed that she gave it skimmed milk, giving the cream to the older children for their cereal.

A two-months-old baby was badly broken out. On being questioned the mother said she gave it scraped bacon fat and soup.

A babe of six months had never had a bath for fear it might take cold.

Upon the recommendation of the bureau twelve children have been given free treatment at Good Samaritan Hospital during the past year; fifty-four children were treated at bureau headquarters; homes have been found for five children, and layettes have been given to fifteen prospective mothers.

The examination of men for military service revealed so many defects that might have been corrected in childhood that the government outlined a programme for child conservation. It was found that 100,000 children under the age of fifteen years die annually from preventable causes, and the programme is in an effort to save these children, Oregon's quota being 566.

Oregon has 60,211 children under five years of age, and of these 5,000 were weighed and measured last Summer by the bureau committee of the Oregon Congress of Mothers. Cards were distributed to 3,900 mothers, and of these 2,021 have been returned and tabulated. In Multnomah County 196 children were found to be under height, 390 were under weight and 45 had physical defects that needed remedying.

### "Back-to-the-School Drive" is Far-Reaching. Child-Welfare Committee to Direct Campaign in Oregon

A "back-to-the-school-drive," about to be launched throughout the whole nation by the child conservation section of the field division. National Council of Defense was presented in Oregon by the child welfare committee of the State Council of Defense, of which Mrs. Fred G. Schilke, of La Grande, is chairman.

"Leading from the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through the counties and to the most remote school district in Oregon, a survey will be made, listing every boy and girl who for various reasons left school to enter the fields of labor during the period of the war," says Mrs. Schilke.

"An attempt will be made, not only to return them to school, but to adjust them to their proper classes. Many will be found violating school attendance laws and child labor laws. This phase will be legally handled if necessary.

"It is the business of Oregon to see that we

have a future citizenship of educated people, and if, in this survey, we find parents who are indifferent to the education of their children, let us wake them up.

"The spirit of patriotism among the children themselves which has been so much in evidence will be a valuable asset to further this undertaking. The Parent-Teacher Associations throughout the state are urged to join forces with the teachers in this reconstruction of the schools of Oregon."

### PENNSYLVANIA

The State Board has purchased from the National Child-Welfare Association a set of unusually helpful and interesting wall-charts on various phases of the physical welfare of children. They make a splendid basis for a program on child hygiene, and can be had for the occasion by writing to Mrs. W. E. Greenwood, Coatesville, Pa., and inclosing one dollar.

As our State Board has pledged itself to do everything possible to help the bill for higher salaries for teachers, word has been sent to every association in the state to pass a resolution of endorsement of this bill, and send the resolution at once to our legislative chairman, Miss Mary S. Garrett, 2201 Belmont Ave., Philadelphia. Each president is asked to appoint a committee to interview legislators and urge their favorable vote on the bill.

The following associations have joined our ranks in the past month: Williamsport High School, Clay School, Williamsport; Newberry, Lycoming Co., and Sugar Grove, Warren Co.

### RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island Congress of Mothers' and Parent-Teacher Associations claim the distinction of having started one of the first moving picture theatres for children.

Through the generosity of the management of the Strand Theatre, the Congress has conducted moving picture shows Saturday mornings from November to Easter. The films are carefully selected from lists of films for children and censored by a committee from the Congress. Matrons and ushers are also Congress members, and mothers find our theatre a convenient place to leave their little ones while they do their shopping.

Every five weeks we have a benefit for some worthy organization.

Our program includes a comedy, a Burton Holmes travelogue and the news weekly, besides the feature film. We have a very good attendance, and at our benefits standing room is generally in order.

During the past year, on account of the abnormal conditions caused by the war, an extra demand was made on the resources of the Congress, and we were enabled, through the income derived from the Children's Theatre, to assist

the following worthy causes: Prenatal, Well and Sick Baby Clinics, conducted by the Congress, War Camp Library Fund, Junior Red Cross, and the Armington Memorial Fresh Air Fund, also to meet our own current expenses.

A benefit at which the "Blue Bird" was present, furnished funds for the rental of the Benjamin Chapin, Son of Democracy series for the seven schools of Providence which have moving picture machines.

This year at one benefit about \$1,800 was raised for the Red Cross Canteen, and on February 2 another was to be given for the Red Cross Motor Corps.

As Rhode Island is an industrial state, and the Rhode Island Congress consists of sixty-three auxiliary clubs, we feel that in no other way can a clean, well-balanced program of moving pictures for children meet the requirements of so large a part of our population, as through the interest of our own members who are all mothers or teachers.

We consider ourselves very fortunate in having such generous assistance and cooperation as that furnished by Mr. Chas. H. Williams, manager of the Strand Theatre, and our inspector of amusements, Sergeant Richard H. Gamble.

We wish it were possible for the Congress of Mothers in every state to have a like opportunity.

### TEXAS

February 17, set as Child-Welfare Day, was observed as such by clubs of Texas Congress of Mothers.

Four hundred local Parent-Teacher Associations and Mothers' Clubs, composing the Texas Congress of Mothers, observed February 17 as Child Welfare Day, commemorated the twenty-second birthday of the National Congress of Mothers. Mrs. Ella Caruthers Porter of Dallas is State chairman, Child-Welfare Day.

"The National Congress of Mothers named its birthday Child-Welfare Day because it came into existence solely to promote the welfare of children," Mrs. Porter said: "To that service the organization is dedicated. To that service it has devoted itself throughout the twenty-two years of its existence.

"Since the Texas Congress of Mothers has been intrusted by the government with the work for children's year, the state chairman arranged a program bearing upon such subjects as are outlined for children's year activities.

"The back-to-school drive, scholarships for children, recreational drive, public health nurses, birth registrations and similar subjects are included in the program. Programs were sent to every local organization in the state.

"The National Congress of Mothers, with its thousands of members all over the United States, has, for the last two years, thrown its entire strength into helping win the war, not only in aiding our soldiers in every way possible,

but by aiding and caring for the mothers and children left behind.

"It was the express desire of the founder of the National Congress of Mothers, Mrs. Theodore W. Birney, that permanent headquarters should be established in Washington. For twenty years headquarters has been maintained in Washington, but in rented offices. Only two years ago were the dreams of the executive board realized when permanent headquarters was purchased at 1314 Massachusetts Avenue, at a cost of \$30,000. The building has been used during the war by the National Congress of Mothers' United Service Club for Enlisted Men. Two hundred beds, a cafeteria, reading and writing-rooms were maintained. It will later be used for offices for the National Congress of Mothers."

The following letter from the national president, Mrs. Frederick Schoff, has been sent to the Texas Congress of Mothers:

"Nineteen hundred and eighteen, with all its tragedies, all its heroisms, all its victories, has passed into history.

"Never before have so many people of so many nations cast all thoughts of self aside and lived and worked for others. The new year before us means still the opportunity for service in fuller measure. With love and gratitude to the Heavenly Father let us work with him to make the lives of all his children richer and happier.

"Never before have the possibilities of childhood been so appreciated. Never before has the need of educated parenthood been so evident. Never before has the necessity for giving every child and every home a chance been so clearly realized by our statesmen.

"Mothers, fathers, teachers, awake to the breadth of this work for childhood. It isn't your state or your village which should bound your vision. America today is the cynosure of all nations. To us the world looks for reconstruction and help of every kind. Never before has the home held so high a place.

"Unless there is a National Congress of Mothers reaching out to help every state and every community the local association would gradually disintegrate and scatter. In every case where there is a lapse of help this occurs.

"Think of the wonderful work being done by the National Congress of Mothers and lend a hand to the nation-wide appeal for financial support. We have all learned to give in this world war.

"The work of the Congress of Mothers is worthy of your support. It includes the work for children and mothers of every class and every condition. Its work is for the public welfare.

"The present dues for members of Parent-Teacher Associations is utterly inadequate to meet the demands of the National Congress of Mothers at this time. The work is handicapped in every way and every state feels the effect of

this handicap when the parent organization can not command the income that will enable it to do what is required.

"Increased cost of printing, of postage, of paper and of salaries to clerks have nearly doubled expenses, while the requests for literature, programs and help of all kinds constantly increase.

"The National Congress of Mothers should have funds to meet these needs. Its work is fundamentally and vitally important to the Nation. Without financial support nothing adequate can be done. With it every state will quadruple its membership.

"United we stand, divided we fall. Will Texas do her part to extend this great cause?"

### WASHINGTON

The Executive Committee of the Washington State Branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations met in Seattle recently. Mrs. C. Arthur Varney, of Yakima, State president, presided. An invitation from Olympia to hold the Mothers' Congress in that city this year was accepted.

This important meeting which is looked forward to each year with such keen interest by so many mothers of the state will be in May. The exact date will be announced later.

Last year the adoption of one French orphan by one Parent-Teacher Association was a conspicuous event among the circles of Tacoma. This year it has become one of the subjects of foremost importance. Twenty-two of these unfortunate overseas children, whose homes have been broken by the ravages of war, are being maintained by local organizations.

"Better mothers! Better babies!" This is the new slogan adopted by the Pre-school circles of Tacoma. If we are to have better babies, we must first give more attention and thought to the prospective mother as well as better care to the mother following child-birth that she may be better fitted, both physically and mentally, to properly care for the child.

The chairman of Civilian Relief from this organization, reports eleven families looked after at Christmas time and seven others provided for during periods of need or convalescence. Layettes have been supplied where needed.

Belgian and French baby relief is still being carried on and splendid results are coming from the practical work of the several circles. Promising new circles are being formed.

Last year there were more than 3,500 children enrolled in the School Garden clubs of Spokane. The factor that has contributed largely to the success of this measure has been the early recognition by those in charge, of the value of coöperation with the girls canning clubs as a means of supplying a market for the produce raised by the gardeners. So in Spokane, the

young school gardeners are told to bring their products, clean and attractively prepared, to the established canning centers where it is appraised at the prevailing market prices. This year the preliminary work will be carried on through the medium of the Parent-Teacher Association.

The Parent-Teachers Association of the Everett School for the Deaf is working hard for legislation for the betterment of conditions for deaf children.

Centralia Council of Parent-Teacher Associations is arranging a health crusade.

Social welfare work among high school boys and girls was the theme of the joint meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association and faculty of the Lewis and Clarke High School, Spokane, not long ago.

Home influences on our boys and girls was introduced by Judge Webster, who impressed his listeners with the importance of proper supervision on the part of the parents. He said: "The influence of the gang spirit upon boys and the association of boys together on street corners, in rooms and other meeting places, is one of the greatest causes of so many cases in the juvenile courts. Houses are broken into and property

destroyed because the boy follows the gang leader. I object to boys being exposed to these influences and then the passage of laws that bring them to the juvenile courts.

## WISCONSIN

### Kenosha Parent-Teacher Association Celebrate Child-Welfare Day

The nine Parent-Teacher Associations of Kenosha met in the auditorium of the high school to celebrate the founding of the Mothers' Congress, March third.

Each school furnished one number for the program, there being folk dance, orations, songs, instrumental music and fancy drills. The president of the board of education and the superintendent of schools urged the erection of new buildings to take care of the many half-time children.

About five hundred were present and parents and teachers enjoyed a social hour with dancing.

The program for this meeting, which represented every part of the city, was worked out in the Parent-Teacher Council.

So successful was this meeting that we feel encouraged to try a similar program next year.

## PROGRAM FOR PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS FOR APRIL

The Programs given from month to month require the service of three members of the association for each meeting. They develop home talent, at the same time providing papers of educational value in child-nurture. They ensure a high standard for the season's meetings, and awaken wider interest in child-welfare as the members learn of the movement throughout the world.

### FIRST TOPIC—The American Boy and His Home.

President's Desk.

### SECOND TOPIC (To be assigned to another member).

What Parent-Teacher Associations in other States are Doing.

### THIRD TOPIC (To be assigned to third member).

Current Events in Child-Welfare

List of Loan Papers in Child Nurture suitable for programs may be secured by sending 3 cent stamp to National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, 1314 Mass. Ave., Washington, D. C.